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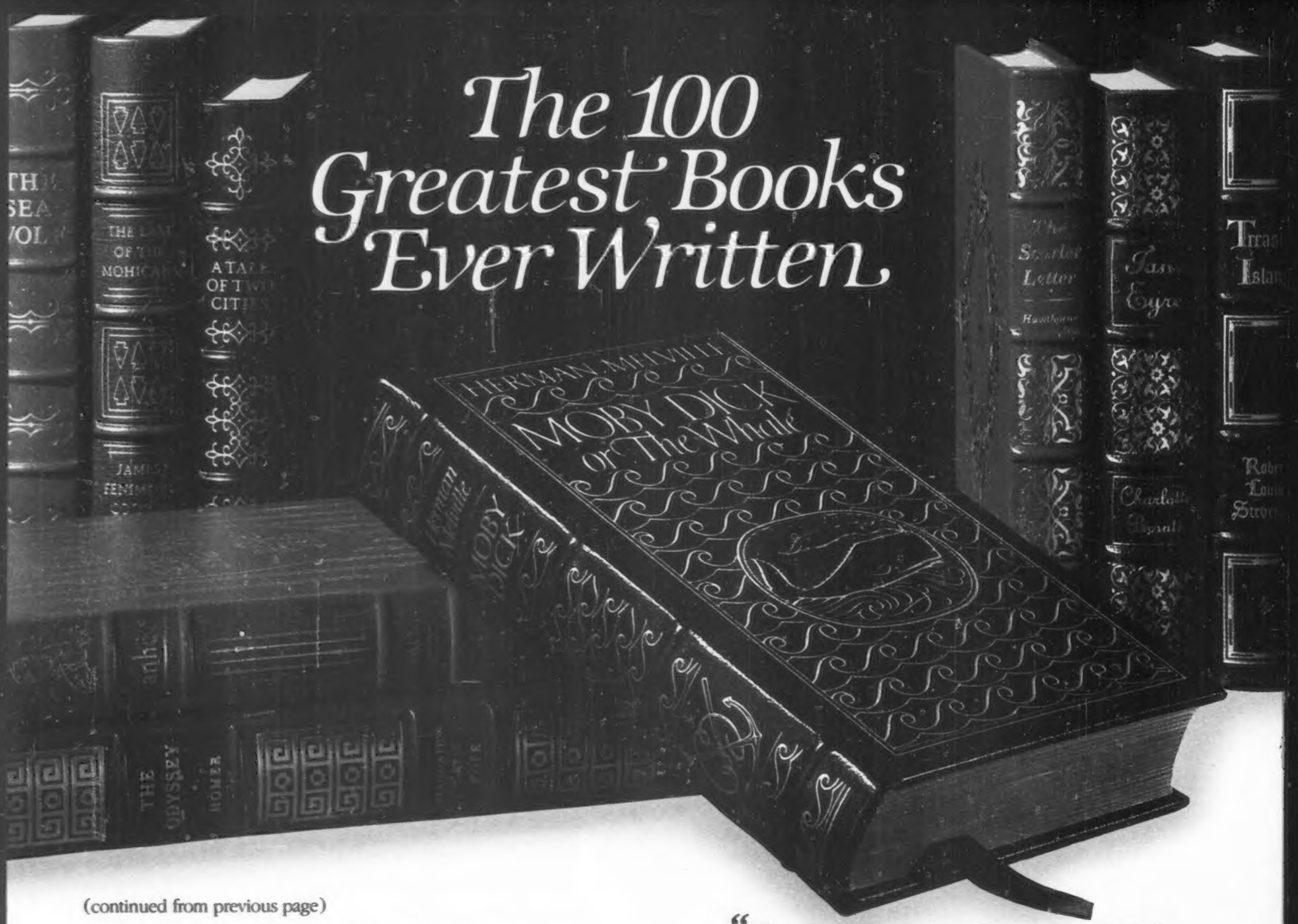

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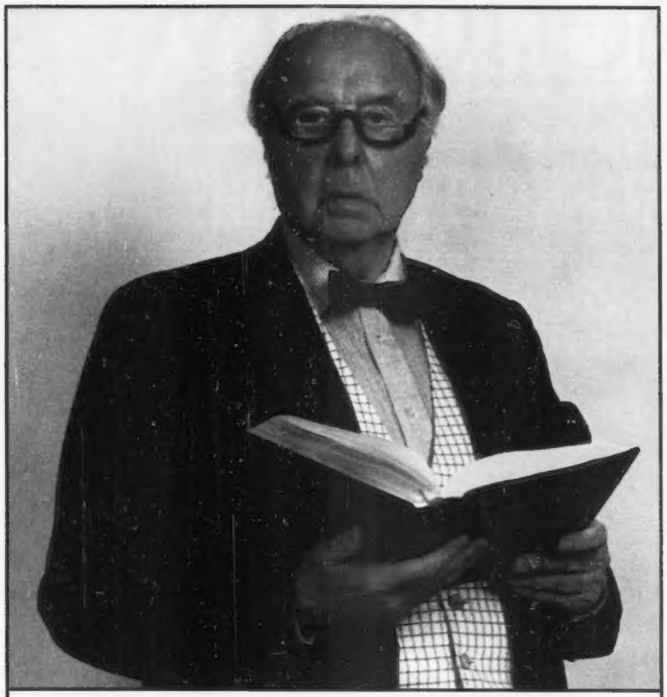

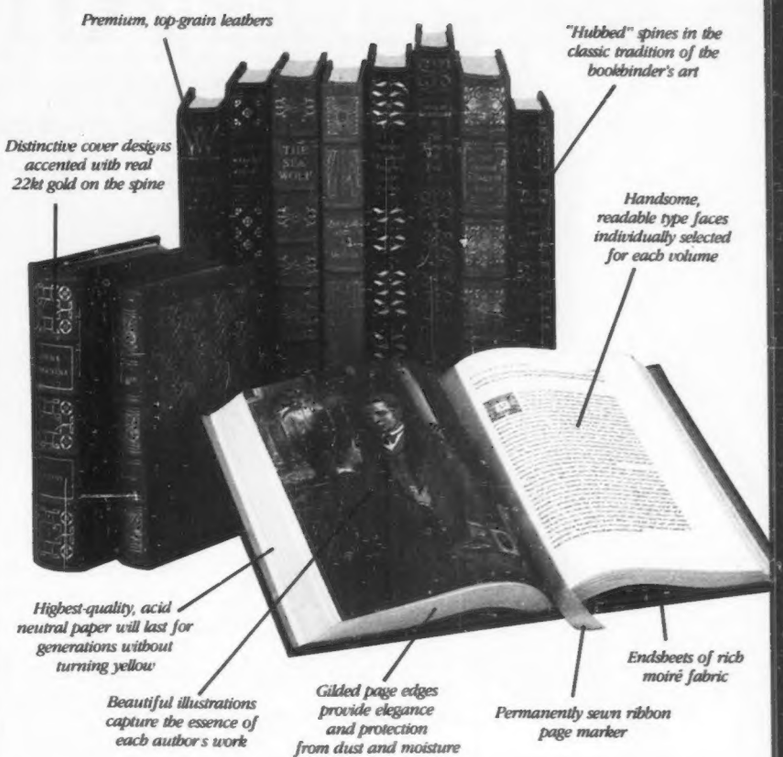
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March/April 1985 Vol. XXII, No. 2

American West

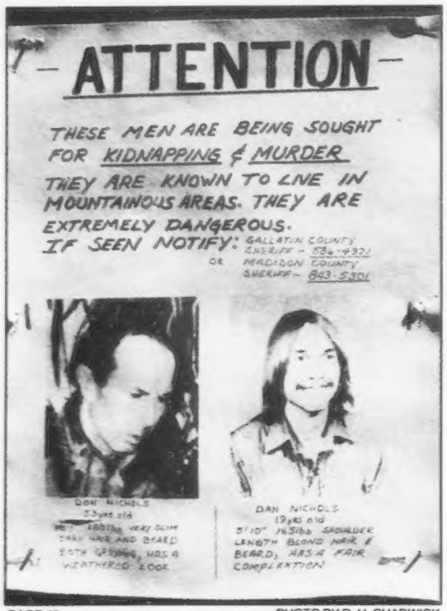
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PHOTO BY SHERRY TODD

Cover

When Queen Elizabeth visited Wyoming, she had good reason to feel at home, as the state contains numerous ranches and families that were established by young British nobility during the 1880s. Her hostess was Lady Porchester, better known in Wyoming as Jean Margaret Wallop, granddaughter of Britisher-American Oliver H. Wallop who settled in Wyoming Territory a century ago. On our cover the Queen chats with Dorothy Savage, curator of the Bradford Brinton Memorial Museum in Sheridan County, where Elizabeth enjoyed the historical collections in the preserved ranch house.

AMERICAN WEST (ISSN 0003-1534) is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November for $15 per year by American West Publishing Company, 3033 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85719. Second-class postage paid at Tucson, Arizona, and additional post offices. **POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to AMERICAN WEST, Box 1960, Marion, Ohio 43305.**

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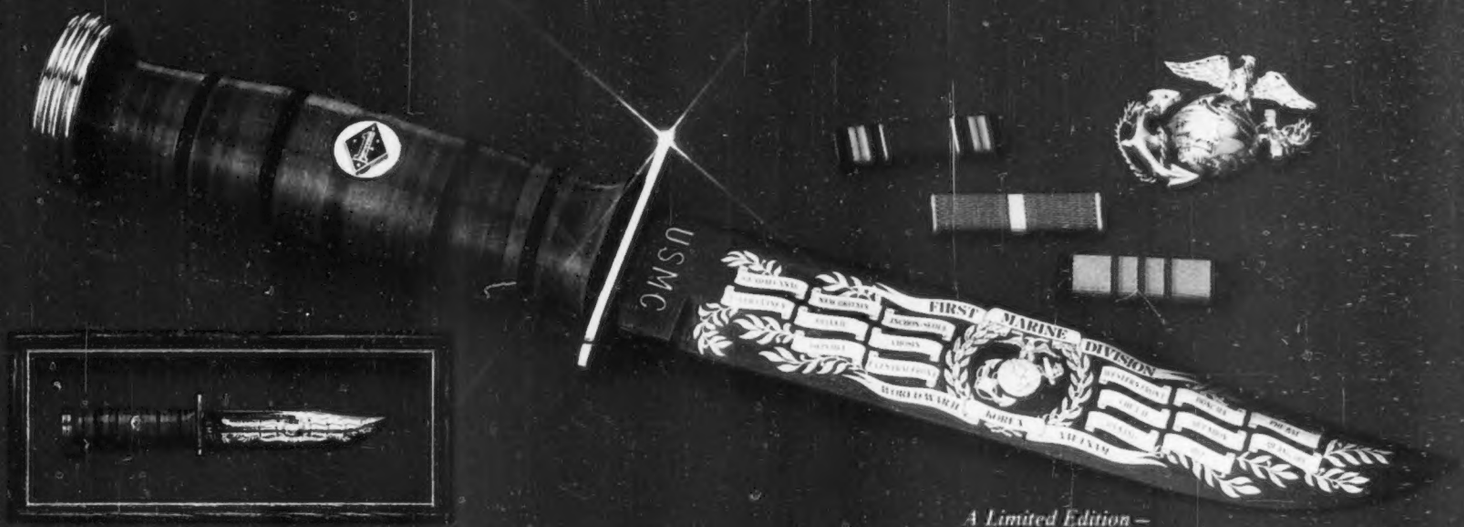

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View from the West

The creeps of the world are generally bad shots.

—Colonel Jeff Cooper

"You! A redneck!"

The issue that inspires the epithet is gun control, more specifically the private ownership and use of firearms for personal self-defense. I'm sometimes dubbed "redneck" when intellectual powers of persuasion fail to sway me against the logic of being prepared to defend myself.

In the eyes of those who would do away with citizens' owning guns, dubbing a gun owner with the "redneck" pejorative indicates his basic unfitness to discuss the issue. It's significant that in the lexicon of racial, religious, and other socially unacceptable slurs, this one is entirely acceptable. I suppose that the people who use "redneck" as a pejorative feel safe because if they ever stuck their necks out in the sun—an unlikely event in any case—they'd turn red, too.

But for reasons not altogether clear to me, determination to value one's life and to be willing to defend it at the expense of a human predator is not popular among the general run of social critics. Furthermore, the issue of self-defense, at the magnum level, can cause paroxysms of editorial confusion when an otherwise apparently normal citizen protects himself with "necessary force."

Thus it is we find citizens across the nation, of necks of all hues, cheering Bernard Hugo Goetz for defending himself in a New York City subway,while the press, in its confusion, mislabels him a "vigilante." It's only an editorial quick step from there to deploring our violent frontier heritage—a step that in one mistaken breath lumps together Goetz and his handgun and the thugs with sharpened screwdrivers in their pockets.

Not surprising to us, when the Old West was filled with more armed individuals of self-defense persuasion, we didn't have a more violent society; we had a much safer one. In the recently published *Gunfighters Highwaymen and Vigilantes,* the author Roger D. McGrath studied the records and newspapers of several frontier towns that have notorious reputations for violence and mayhem. Among the worst of these was the late nineteenth century Bodie, California—a place marked even in its own day for the tales we love to tell ourselves today—tales trotted out on a regular basis to explain and "cluck, cluck" over our twentieth century proclivity for violence.

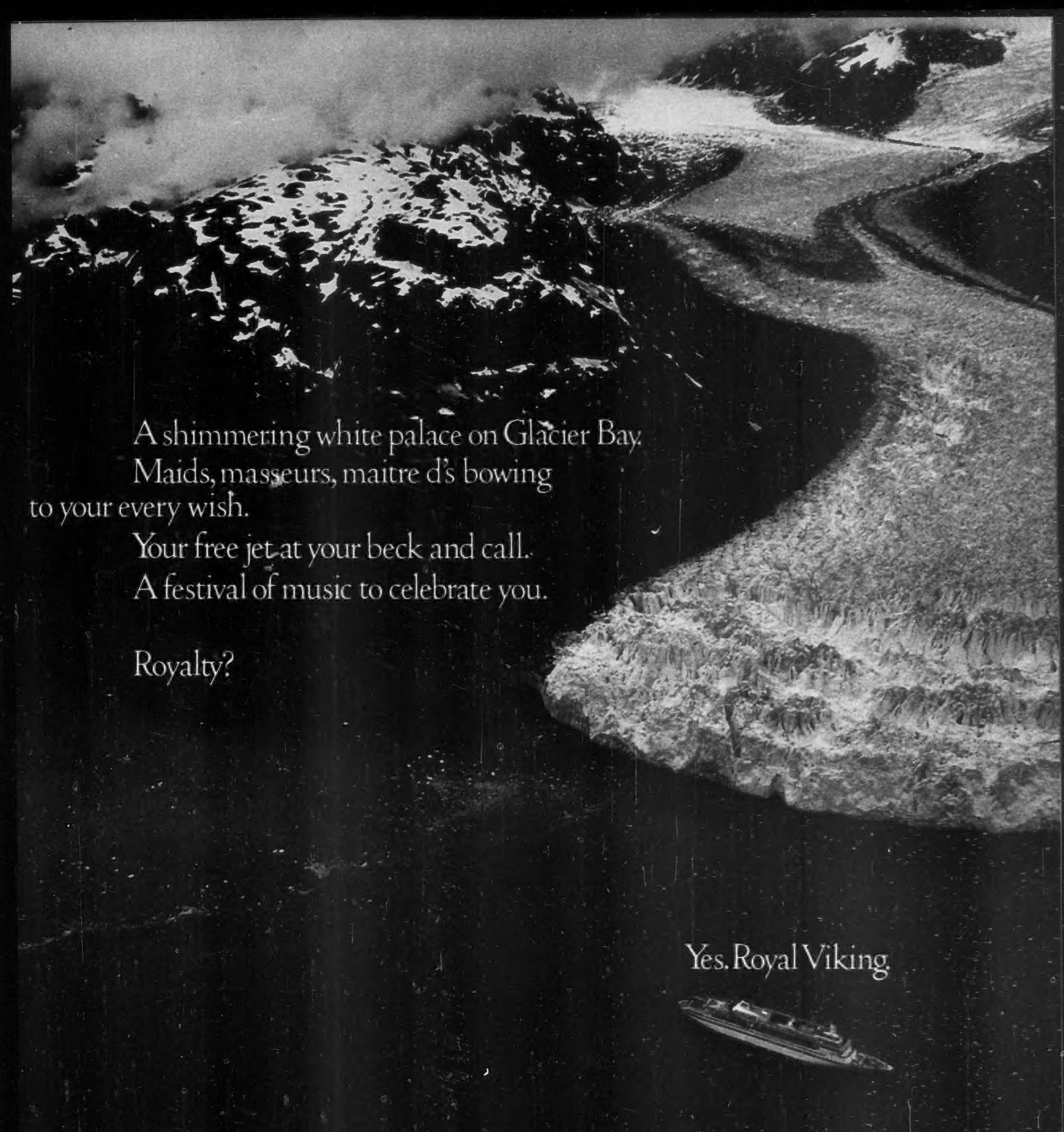
Good story. Erroneous fact. In Bodie, McGrath discovered that serious juvenile offenses, crimes against the elderly and weak, rape, robbery, burglary, and theft were almost nonexistent. In fact, nineteenth century boom town Bodie was far safer than almost any American city today. (The robbery rate for Bodie was 84 per 100,000; the 1980 robbery rate per 100,000 in the nation, including small towns and rural areas, was 243. New York City's rate was 1,140).

As for the attitude of nineteenth century Western editors, they seemed to be less confused than their modern counterparts about priorities when the good guys were preyed upon by bad guys. Bodie's newspaper editors and those in frontier towns elsewhere were not above advising their readers that the first line of defense against crime was an individual's responsibility. And although violence, even in the hands of citizens, might be deplored, it was—as the *Virginia City Territorial Enterprise* put it—preferable to "that other state of civilization which allows murder to run riot in a community and allows assassins to walk the streets unharmed."

In an unnoticed touch of irony, the same day that Bernard Goetz was struggling with arraignment in the New York courts, the California parole board freed Dan White—the man who just six years ago killed George Moscone, the Mayor of San Francisco, and Harvey Milk, a member of the Board of Supervisors.

One doesn't have to favor vigilantism to feel uncomfortable about White on the street and Goetz facing a lengthy trial. And one needn't feel the slightest apologetic or ashamed about feeling that if the predator in pants feels he has the right to mug, rob, or do worse to us, we have the right to stop him. That's the way they felt in Bodie where people looked out for themselves and their neighbors. In Bodie it was the bad guys who had to step carefully, not the good guys, and almost everyone's neck was red.

Tom Pew



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AMERICAN WEST is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

AMERICAN WEST (ISSN 0003-1534) is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by American West Publishing Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association, a nonprofit educational organization, Mrs. Henry H. R. Coe, chairman. Editorial, circulation, and advertising offices are reached at 3033 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85719, tel. (602) 881-5850. Newsstand price: $3. Back issues: $5 (includes shipping). Subscriptions: one year $15; two years $25; three years $35 (outside the U.S. $4 per year extra). Subscription correspondence and orders should be sent to Box 1960, Marion, Ohio 43305. However, members of the Western History Association should address communications regarding subscriptions to William D. Rowley, Department of History, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557. AMERICAN WEST encourages writers to send a query letter and self-addressed, stamped envelope before submitting manuscripts. AMERICAN WEST is printed by R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company in Glasgow, Kentucky. Film preparation and color separations for editorial are by American Color Corporation, Tucson, Arizona; and typesetting by Alltype, Tucson, Arizona.

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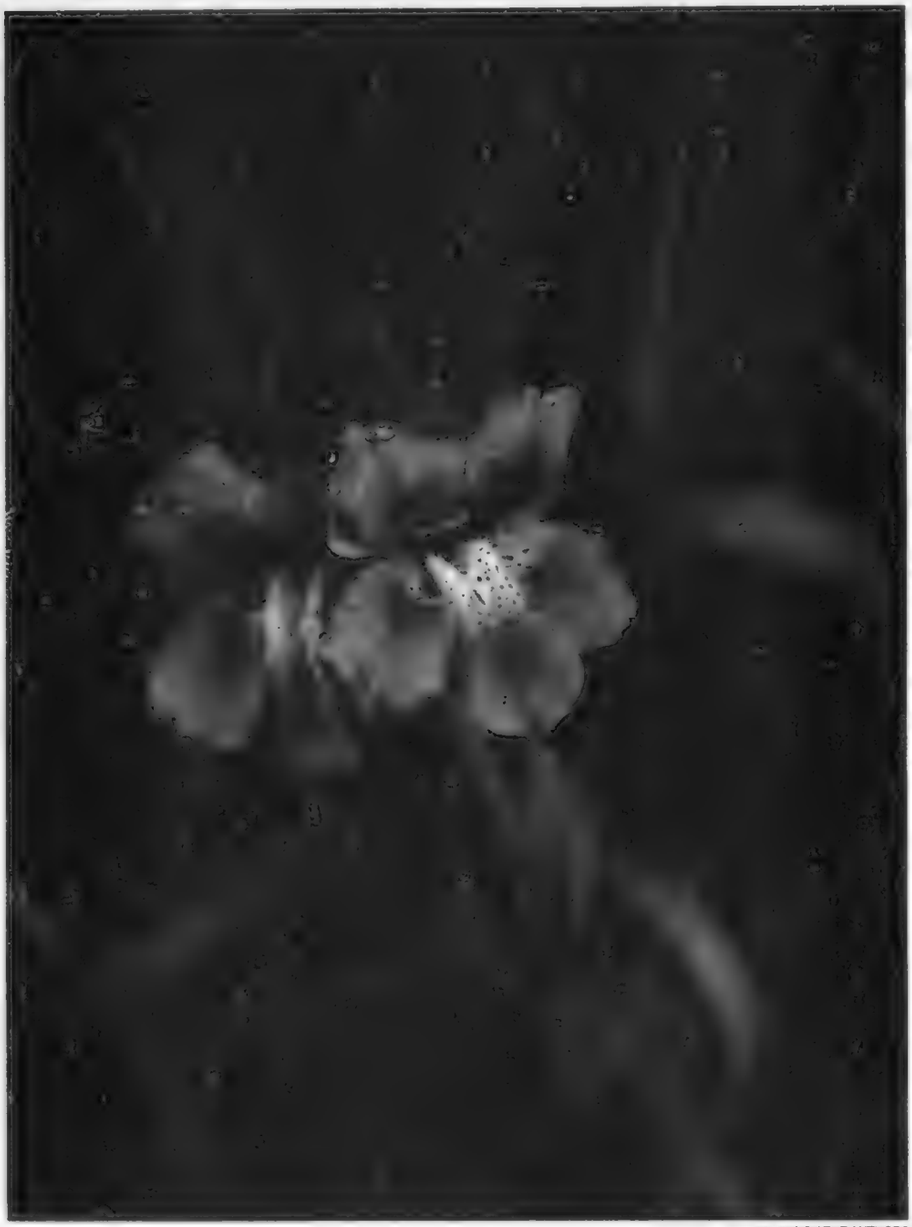

PHOTO BY THE AUTHORS

Wildflower Spectacular

by Erwin and Peggy Bauer

Early in March a remarkable flower show opens in the lower Rio Grande valley of Texas. Wild bluebonnets suddenly begin to bloom along every roadside and in every fallow field. If it is a normal, warm springtime, the blooming then advances northward at about twenty-five miles per day. The bluebonnets reach the Oklahoma border toward the end of April.

However, that is only part of a colorful story. Other wildflower species such as Indian paintbrush, primroses, daisies, winecups, and fire wheels migrate over the same landscape on varying schedules that are often reported in local newspapers. The planted roadsides of Texas are deliberately not mowed until virtually all native wildflowers have matured and the seeds have been scattered to the western winds.

This remarkable wildflower spectacular, which began a half-century ago, is a dazzling sight for any highway traveler and a special boon to anyone who owns almost any kind of camera. Roughly a million acres of land along 71,000 miles of pavement have been planted with native Texas species. These plants require little water, no fertilizer (as do grass-planted berms), need only minimal care, and resist insects, drouths, and freezing. Such cultivations also prevent soil erosion and provide some wildlife habitat. Today hundreds of flowering species thrive along Lone Star highways, but of course a few are more spectacular than others.

For photographers the Texas roadside program is only one sample of the golden opportunities that extend across the West from spring until the first killing frost. Early last summer a party of European journalists took an escorted press tour of the Rocky Mountains. They explored Glacier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton as well as the national parks of Utah. When asked what sights impressed them most of all, their not-so-surprising answer was the exquisite color and profusion of wildflowers.

"It must be the greatest flower show on earth," concluded one German travel writer.

Because few regions of the world can promise either the vast carpets or the myriad varieties that grow in the Rocky Mountains, it is easily possible to spend a whole holiday, or even an entire summer there just focusing on flowers. Many more kinds thrive on deserts, bogs, tundra, high plains, Pacific seashores, and in the Cascades or High Sierra—anywhere you happen to wander. But when in the field, keep in mind a few techniques and tips that guarantee better flower pictures.

Often, the first temptation of camera buffs is to shoot wide-angle photographs of fields of alpine meadows full of June or July blossoms. That isn't any wonder, because such scenes are enough to encourage any camera person to expose film with abandon. But unless the sun is very low on the horizon (either very early or very late in the day) the results are often disappointing. The flowers are seldom as dense as they appear at first glance. Nine times in ten, the most satisfying way to shoot wildflowers is at very close range. A close-up of a single Wyoming monkeyflower with morning moisture on the petals is far more striking than a photograph of a cluster of the same species growing, but scattered, along a soggy streambed.

Most serious flower photographers observe four rules: 1) use a tripod and cable release to hold the camera perfectly steady, 2) use a close-up (macro) lens (or a close-up lens attachment or tube, or a bellows extension) to

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get really close to the subject, 3) use a small lens opening (or the smallest possible permitted by the exposure) for maximum depth of field, unless you plan to blur out the background, 4) be absolutely certain to focus accurately, sharply.

Although these basic rules are correct, a creative photographer simply must break some of them sometimes. For instance, no tripod we have ever found is flexible enough to match the angles we can achieve by contortion—by getting right down on the ground with the subject, by shooting slightly upward if that perspective seems best. Using shoulders, arms, and elbows as our tripod, we can obtain pictures of flowering plants from fresh and exciting viewpoints.

We try to isolate single flowers (or berries, pinecones, fruits, or mushrooms) against backgrounds of contrasting texture, color, or light. We also watch for situations in which backlighting or sidelighting seem to illuminate the plant by shining through it. Deeper color in a blossom can be achieved by underexposing slightly. Although sunlight is normally an important ingredient when photographing the outdoor West, we do much of our wildflower shooting on overcast days when the diffused light is very effective for such close range work. A bright sun directly overhead results in harsh contrasts, which in turn eliminate the delicate detail in stamens and petals. High noon is not recommended for macro photography.

At the expense of the natural setting, some cameramen insert an artificial background, such as a plain sheet of cardboard, directly behind a flower to eliminate distraction and for clarity. Others rely, effectively, on a small flash unit to assure perfect exposure or as fill-in light when working in a shadowy place. Another way to direct or manipulate light, is to use a glossy white sheet of cardboard or a wrinkled sheet of aluminum foil as a reflector. But day in and day out, shooting only natural backgrounds with natural light gives us our most satisfying results.

Speaking of equipment: The normal 50mm lens on 35mm single-lens reflex cameras will focus down to about twenty-four inches. This covers an area of about eight by twelve inches, which is near enough for large flowers or tight clumps of small ones. But for really tiny blossoms, a close-up attachment or separate macro lens (which we favor) is essential. Close-up accessories are not very expensive, are offered with most popular 35mm camera systems, and are worth many times the cost in enlarged, razor-sharp images of the most delicate subjects. Keep in mind that this same close-up equipment will be useful in photographing everything from butterflies and snowflakes, to turquoise jewelry and the texture of a Navajo rug.

For wild excitement that makes the pulse pound, photographing wildflowers does not compare with stalking a trophy bull elk or bighorn ram. But it has a rich fascination of its own. Down there in the litter of the Western forest floor is a whole new, living world as colorful as the tropical fishes on any coral reef.

Erwin and Peggy Bauer *are authors of a new art book,* Wildlife Adventures with a Camera, *published by Harry N. Abrams, New York. It is available from Travel-Adventure-Outdoors, Box 543, Teton Village, Wyoming 83025 for $45 plus $2 postage and handling.*

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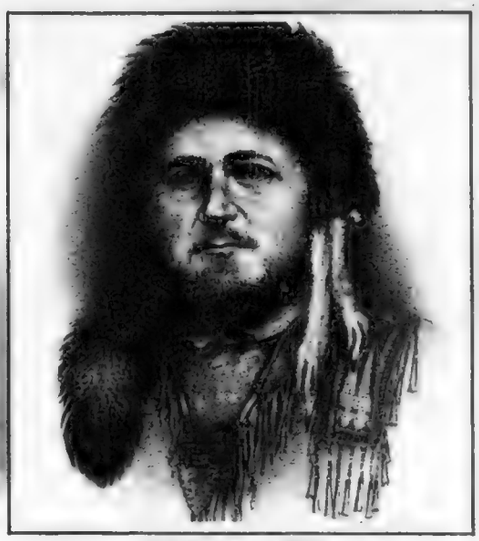

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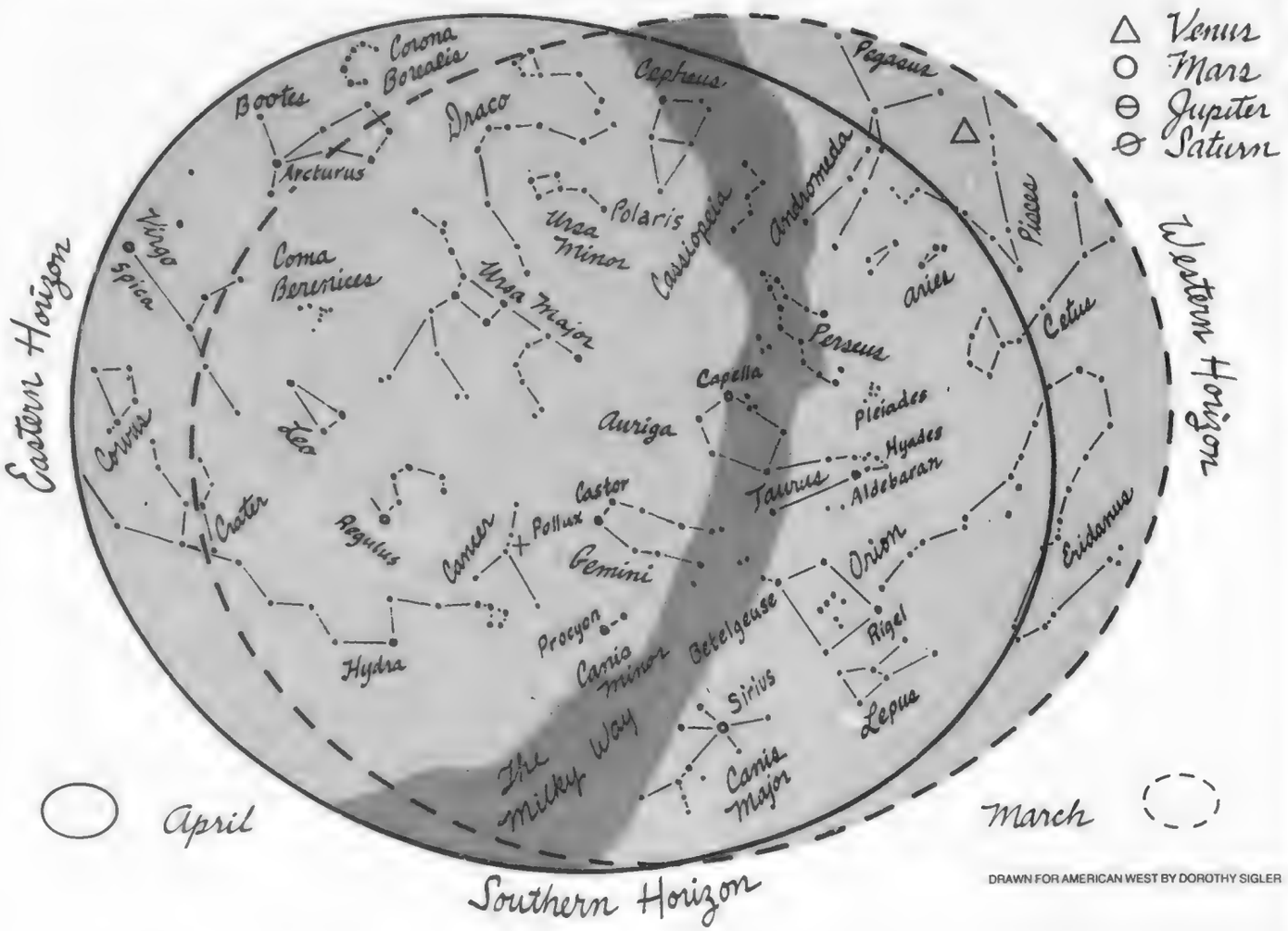

DRAWN FOR AMERICAN WEST BY DOROTHY SIGLER

Spring Skies Abound

by O. Richard Norton

Spring skies, like the skies of autumn, are subtle. The constellations are fainter, and the bright stars are few and far between. This is a welcome respite from the glorious profusion of stars decorating the winter sky. The stars of spring are announced by the appearance of Leo, the lion, rising almost due east at 9:00 by the first of March. Its head looks like a backward question mark terminating in the bright blue star *Regulus*. Another sign of spring's presence is the Big Dipper's appearance in the northeast rising with Leo. Its handle rests on the horizon with its dipper stars held high.

The brightest star of the spring sky rises just two hours after Leo. This is the orange giant, *Arcturus*, the third brightest star in the sky. It marks the tail of the kite-shaped figure, Bootes. Also rising about the same time, but in the southeast, is another bright blue star only slightly brighter than *Regulus*. This is *Spica*, marking the base of the Y-shaped figure of Virgo. These three widely separated stars form a right triangle with *Spica* at the 90° angle. They are excellent reference stars to begin your exploration of the spring constellations.

Modest in size, but well-shaped constellations are featured in this gentle sky. Try finding the constellation of Corvus just southwest of *Spica*. It has the shape of the sail of a Chinese junk with its four main stars of equal brightness. Another distinctively shaped group is Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. It's easy to find this semicircle of stars immediately east of Bootes, and it doesn't take much imagination to see a royal crown of stars there. Finally, there is the constellation of Libra just east of *Spica*. This is another faint group looking similar to Corvus, only larger.

The four constellations, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, and Libra, are all associated. They are zodiacal groups all lying along the ecliptic or zodiac. Since the zodiac is simply the edge-on view of the plane of our solar system, we would look along this path to find any planets visible in the spring sky.

For those of you wishing a challenge, try to

find the butterfly-shaped constellation of Hercules just east of the Northern Crown. It's not a bright group, but its importance lies hidden within its smaller "wing." We'll return to Hercules.

Using Your Binoculars

Binoculars certainly enhance the spring sky. There are hidden treasures out there that are revealed with your binoculars. Perhaps you have noticed on a dark, moonless night a display of tiny stars running generally north-south between Leo and *Arcturus*. This is the faint constellation of Coma Berenices. Although it is visible with the unaided eye, it is best seen with binoculars. Hidden well beyond those stars and not visible with binoculars are hundreds of galaxies forming a great cluster called the Coma Cluster. These galaxies are similar to our own Milky Way Galaxy in that they are made up of billions of stars that are millions of light years away. A similar though closer cluster of galaxies, the Virgo cluster, is nestled in the "Y" of Virgo, again not visible with binoculars.

In the November/December issue of AMERICAN WEST, we considered the autumn sky and found that this sky was equally diminished in brightness. We saw that it was due to the solar system's unique location in the Milky Way Galaxy. During the spring and fall, our position allows us to look beyond the confines of our Galaxy and into deep space. We see fewer stars since we are looking away from the galactic plane occupied by the Milky Way. Since our own Galaxy no longer blocks our view of space beyond, we are able to see the great clusters of galaxies millions of light years away. The spring sky in particular hosts the realm of the galaxies. Almost every constellation is associated with clusters of galaxies. Even though they are not visible in ordinary binoculars, a small telescope, well within reach of the amateur observer, can reveal hundreds of them . . . and cruising among the galaxies is a wonderful pastime!

But those of you with binoculars need not be discouraged. Try looking for the beehive star cluster in the faint constellation of Cancer just to the west of Leo. The constellation itself is hard to find, but the star cluster is visible to the naked eye and a beautiful sight in binoculars. Look for the "X" marking the spot on the star map.

Finally, for those of you willing to try, point to the upper part of the small "wing" of Hercules. Your binoculars will reveal a faint ball of light for which Hercules is famous. This is the Great Hercules Star Cluster pictured in all the astronomy books. Only a small telescope is needed to reveal this globe of 50,000 stars in all its splendor. Incidentally, our solar system is moving toward this cluster at a speed of twelve miles per second.

In a future issue, I will be concentrating on the subject of binoculars, what kind to use for star gazing, and what you can expect to see with them.

Where Are the Planets?

These two months feature only one planet, Venus. It's at its brightest low in the west after sundown. Your binoculars can be used to see its brilliant crescent shape much like a tiny moon. Venus will soon pass between the earth and sun and be lost in its glare, reappearing in the morning sky in May. The other planets, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, are well up in the east by sunrise. They will be entering the evening sky again this summer.

O. Richard Norton *is director of the Flandrau Planetarium on the campus of the University of Arizona.*

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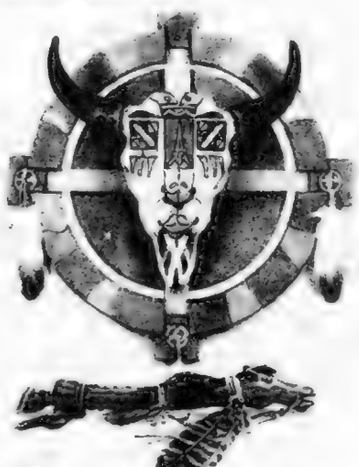

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Recently the growing business completed a $125,000 rush job sprucing up a coach for the 1984 meeting of the American Association of Rail Car Owners in Washington, D.C. There, forty-one cars parked in the Union terminal, the largest gathering of private cars to date and fourteen more than at last year's St. Louis meeting. Four hundred members roamed from coach to coach at an open cocktail party, looking over some extravagant set-ups. Typically, these cars house 850 square feet of observation deck, lounge, state rooms, dining room, kitchen, and crew's quarters. Almost all are equipped with electric power, hot and cold running water, and telephone service. The Amtrak system accommodates these railway travelers through a "special movements" office, charging one dollar per mile for long-distance moves as well as special pick-up fees. The Rail Car Owner's Association hopes to hold next year's meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Gilroy—plenty of garlic, but no gore. Gilroy, a small agricultural community not far from San José, California, is attracting attention for its unusual festivities. First we heard about the garlic festival, where thousands of garlic-lovers rally every summer to honor and savor the area's principal crop. Now Gilroy's Portuguese lodge sponsors a sure-enough, bloodless bullfight in conjunction with its Holy Ghost celebrations in May. Although 1984 marked only the second year for the bullfights, enthusiasm for the controversial event has spread to outlying communities, drawing fans of the modified dance with death from hundreds of miles away.

In Gilroy the bullfights do not follow Spanish and Mexican traditions; lancing and killing of *el toro* is forbidden, and the tips of the bull's horns are cut back about one-half inch as a precaution against injury to *el to-*

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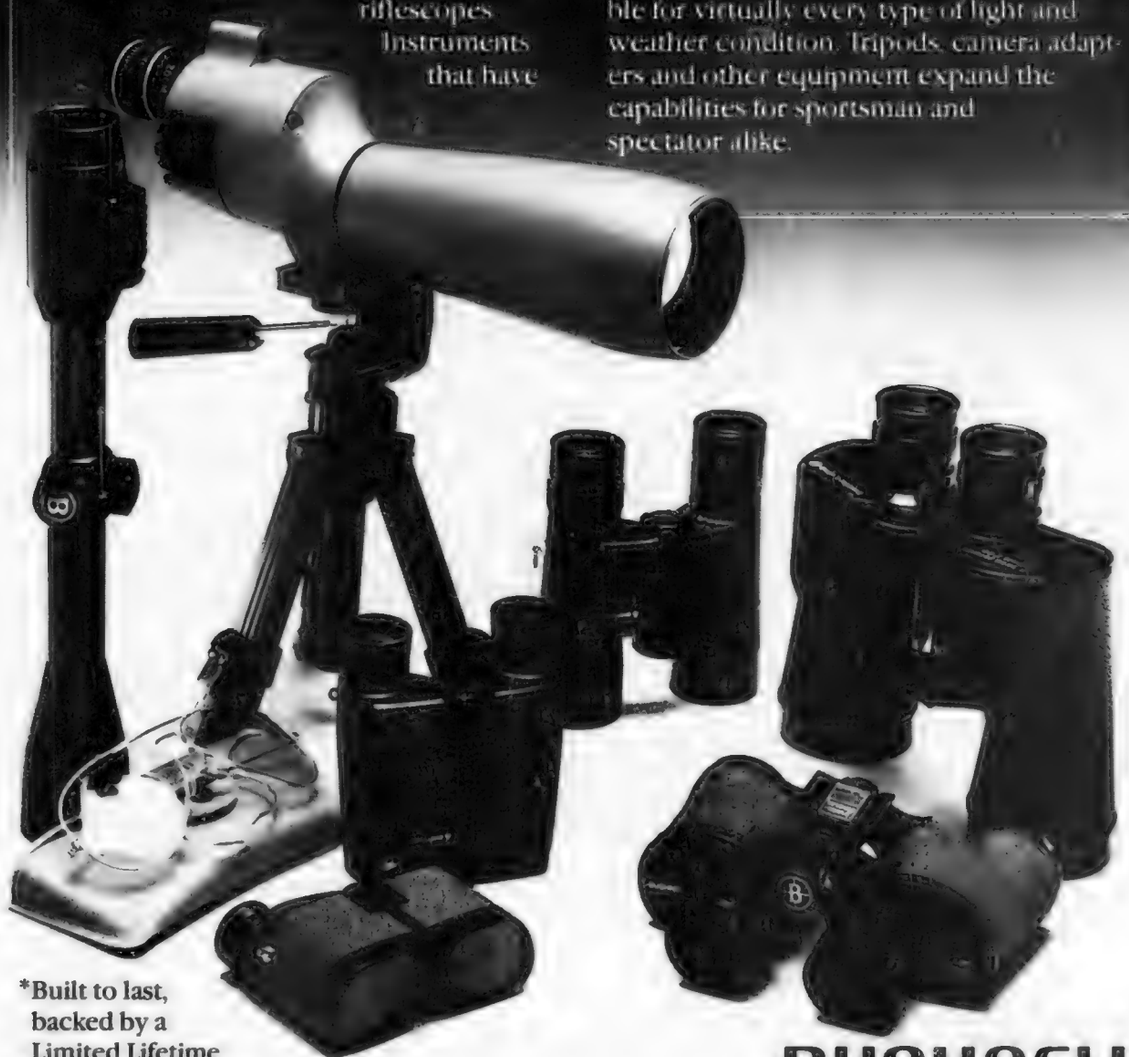

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rero. In spite of the modifications the audience gets a thrill. To capture an authentic atmosphere, the lodge imports fighting bulls from Mexico and experienced matadors from several Latin countries. They even imported a bona fide, portable steel bullring from Lisbon, which now travels to other Portuguese-lodge celebrations around California.

In Monterey Bay an ironic but somehow satisfying and appropriate reincarnation of Cannery Row's biggest sardine-processing plant comes in the form of a $40-million aquarium built on the site, in its image. Retaining some design elements of the old Hovden Cannery, as well as some of the old gear and structures, the new fish house holds sharks, wolf eels, octopus, lingcod, salmon, snapping shrimp, and about 5,000 other indigenous species of Monterey Bay, who flip and wriggle through the eighty-three exhibit tanks. A particularly interesting exhibit is the kelp-forest community, which grows about four inches each day—the first aquarium display of its kind. On the downside, the Monterey Bay Aquarium has been drawing a new surge of tourists into a small town already protesting an inundation of hotel construction.

Paiute brothels? The United States Court of Appeals in San Francisco recently passed down a ruling preventing the Paiutes of Moapa, Nevada, from opening a brothel on their reservation. Although originally approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Nevada, the proposal was rejected by the Interior Department. While the federal government respects Nevada's right to allow brothels within its borders, the Nevada law prohibits brothels in counties with a population of more than 250,000. As it happens, Moapa is situated in Clarke County, twenty-five miles or so from Las Vegas—the only county in Nevada that falls into that category. Jim Toner, business manager of the small, economically depressed tribe, feels that the weight of state and federal laws has been unfairly applied in this case.

Helium estimates soar. Once considered marginally marketable because of its high carbon dioxide content, the natural gas in the Riley Ridge field of Sublette County, Wyoming, is now being reevaluated. It turns out that a high helium content (five- to six-tenths percent) makes the field the largest helium reserve found to date in the United States and possibly the world. Armond Sonnek, Assistant Director of Helium Operations at the Bureau of Mines in Washington, D.C., says that since 1965 official estimates of helium in

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the area have been revised from 7 billion cubic feet (based on information from a single well) to 103 billion cubic feet (based on recent drillings). If seismic information on the ridge proves correct, the reserve could contain over 200 billion cubic feet.

Helium is important for its use in welding, deep sea exploration, nuclear fusion energy, and space exploration. About 1.3 billion cubic feet are produced in the United States each year by private industry and the federal government, about 400 million of that for export. Before the discovery of this tremendous volume of helium-rich gas in Wyoming, helium experts had been concerned about depleting reserves in the United States (since new helium-based technologies continue to be developed). But according to Sonnek, the government now feels it has a solid cushion for the future and is negotiating with Exxon Corporation for royalties on helium sales from the Riley Ridge field. Exxon plans to use the high carbon dioxide content of the natural gas in oil recovery and hopes to market the methane and helium, which will be separated and purified.

Timber troubles. A total of $9,000 is being offered by the United States Forest Service and private timber industries for information leading to the conviction of the people responsible for driving sixty-three pounds of six-inch spikes into trees in over one hundred acres of the Hardesty Mountain area near Eugene, Oregon. Jerry Mason of the Forest Service reports that in spite of public education programs, some people apparently protested logging operations begun last year to salvage uprooted and bark-beetle threatened trees in that area. Because such nails could not only ruin logging and milling equipment, but also pose a serious safety hazard for those operating the equipment, teams with metal detectors and crowbars were sent out to remove the spikes. Mason tells us that most all the spikes should be removed by this time and salvage operations will continue.

"Over the hill" does not mean "at the end of the road." For the Over-the-Hill Gang at Copper Mountain, Colorado, it is more apt to mean back-down-the-slope-in-a-hurry. Several years ago when the Reverend William H. Magill took up skiing at the age of fifty, he noticed a marked lack of his peers on the slopes around him. He later formed, and now heads, the Over-the-Hill-Gang—a nonprofit organization that, for a moderate fee, makes getting out on the ski slopes a little easier and less lonely for those past middle age.

With the enthusiastic cooperation of the Copper Mountain ski resort, members of the club receive special privileges. They may go to the head of the ski-lift line, are allowed special close-in parking, and have a reserved dining area in the mountain-top restaurant. Now large groups of spirited skiiers—some *well* over fifty—glide over the slopes on a regular basis, often joining at the end of the day for meetings and social gatherings. During the warmer months biking and hiking activities are also planned for the three to four hundred club members.

More dam news. Heavy flows at Glen Canyon Dam during the spring and summer of 1983 eroded huge chunks of concrete from the lining of the spillway elbows. At 120 miles per hour, 47,000 cubic feet of water per second rushed through the two tunnels, wreaking havoc on the walls of both release channels and creating grave doubts about their stability. Last August, however, the Bureau of Reclamation completed $33 million worth of repairs and modifications in the spillways, installing air slots—four feet by four feet—around the sides and bottom of the tunnels. These air slots feed air along the sides to create a cushion for the spillway lining.

In heavy testing, with water loads well exceeding those of the record-high year since the dam was built, the air slots worked as

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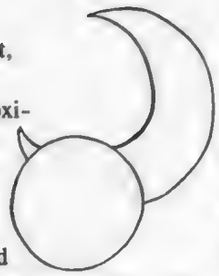
expected. When the spillways were pumped dry, no evidence of weakness was found. Glen Canyon is ready once again for a wet winter and spring. Above the dam, Lake Powell stores twenty-seven million acre feet of water for multiple uses in the Colorado River Basin.

Anasazi astronomy. Astronomers and archeologists now believe that a petroglyph found in a cave in northern Arizona is an ancient notation by an Anasazi Indian of the explosion of a supernova in the year 1054. The twelve-inch pictograph shows the exploding star in its relative position in the sky as a large circle blocking the lower cusp of a crescent moon. This same mysterious event was recorded in some detail at the time by the Chinese and Japanese. Until this pictograph was discovered in the mid-fifties, no other evidence of the blazing celestial event had been found. Since the discovery of the Anasazi petroglyph several similar rock drawings have been found in the Southwest and in Baja California. Investigations spurred by these prehistoric notations led to the discovery of Arabic records noting this explosion as well.

What is left of this supernova can be seen today as the Crab Nebula in the constellation Taurus. Because astronomers have verified the records of the Orient, they are also able to determine that the approximate position of the explosion in the northern Arizona sky would have been against a crescent moon as carved by the Anasazi observer. Astronomers estimate that in an average-sized galaxy like our own a supernova explodes about once every hundred years. They expect that we are overdue for another dazzling display.



"An ostrich policy." These are the words marine explorer Jacques Cousteau used, during a Congressional hearing in 1970, to describe society's attitude toward management of the seas in the face of dramatic decreases in marine life—an estimated 40% drop over the twenty years previous. Now, Friends of Animals, Inc. points to U.S. government statistics showing a 60% decrease in ocean life in the North Pacific seas since 1970. In an effort to decelerate, if not actually stop, the decline in marine life, Friends of Animals is promoting a boycott of tuna and salmon, a protest against purse-seine net fishing techniques now used by United States fisheries, as well as gillnet methods used by Japanese trawling for salmon in U.S. waters. More than 1.5 million porpoise died in purse-seine nets over the last ten years according to U.S. Department of Commerce figures, with thousands more killed in Japanese gillnets.

Tuna and salmon boycotters are trying to gain congressional attention. They hope for an amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 that would outlaw nets, obliging the fishing industries to return to longlining practices. Because the multi-hooked longlines run deep in the sea, porpoise and other marine mammals (who stay close to the surface for air) and birds are not ensnared.

The Pony Express Trail—stretching from Saint Joseph, Missouri, through Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada to Sacramento, California—is being studied for inclusion in the National Trails System under a bill passed last May by the U.S. Congress. The study will determine whether or not this 2,000-mile trail "merits special national recognition," and in the process will document its historic background and locate various segments of that trail. If, at the end of the two-year study, the Pony Express Trail is added to the National Trails System, those sections passing over federal lands may be marked for hiking or riding and would be managed by the National Park Service.

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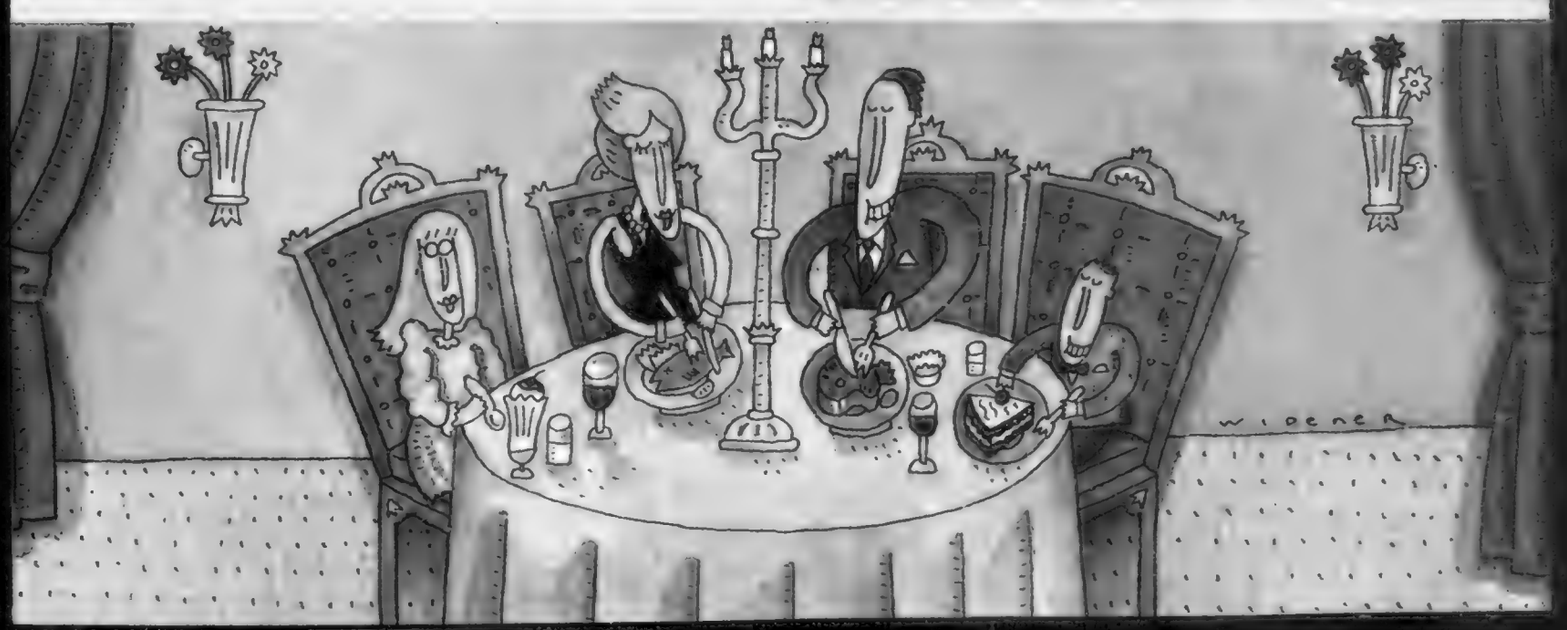

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Little Gun Lake Lodge

Strike it Rich in the British Columbia Gold Country

by Rachel Bard

When you aim for Gold Bridge, high in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia, Canada, remember that Edmund Hilary didn't just stroll up the slopes of Everest one afternoon before tea. Think of great rewards to come, as you toil along sixty miles of gravel road toward this small settlement at the end of man-made Carpenter Lake. Drive on through the forest a mile or so more, and you'll find your first reward: a surprisingly civilized backcountry inn, Little Gun Lake Lodge.

The "little" in its name refers to the lake, not the lodge, which is a substantial log house that for fifty years has stood between forest and lake, surrounded by 8,000-foot-plus peaks of the Chilcotin Range. It makes a fine base for investigating this historic and scenic corner of British Columbia.

The lodge started as a retreat for the moguls of the Pioneer Mining Company back in the 1930s when this was British Columbia's top gold-producing area. Long before that, prospectors had been digging and panning and occasionally striking it rich along Bridge River and Cadwallader Creek. The first gold-seekers came in the 1850s and 1860s, hoping to find another Sutter's Mill or Comstock Lode. Since then, many a mining company has blossomed and died, and many a gold-seeker who didn't make it has stuck it out and found a good living in logging.

One placer mine still survives, and gold can be had for the panning. Every once in a while rumors fly that one of the old mines will be reopened, but the relics hold ample romance for the visitor. The Pioneer Mine, which closed in the 1960s, is the most picturesque ruin, its crumbling buildings still

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trying valiantly to stay upright on a steep hill above rushing Cadwallader Creek. This is about ten miles from the lodge, and just upstream from the ghost town of Bradian: a neat hamlet of some forty identical little square houses, their once-bright paint faded to delicate pastels, their windows broken, with lilacs blooming in their dooryards. The miners lived in Bradian, but they went to Bralorne for shopping, socializing, and guzzling. The Mines Hotel in Bralorne is a rugged survivor, a hangout for today's generation of prospectors and for tourists eager to sample some local color.

Explorers and collectors of odds and ends can have a field day around here, too. Besides looking through abandoned mine shafts (with due caution, of course), they may find, along Carpenter Lake, homely household objects such as frying pans, coffeepots, and vanilla bottles, rusty and mud-encrusted, abandoned when miners moved on or when the Terzaghi Dam impounded the lake twenty-five years ago and inundated its settlements.

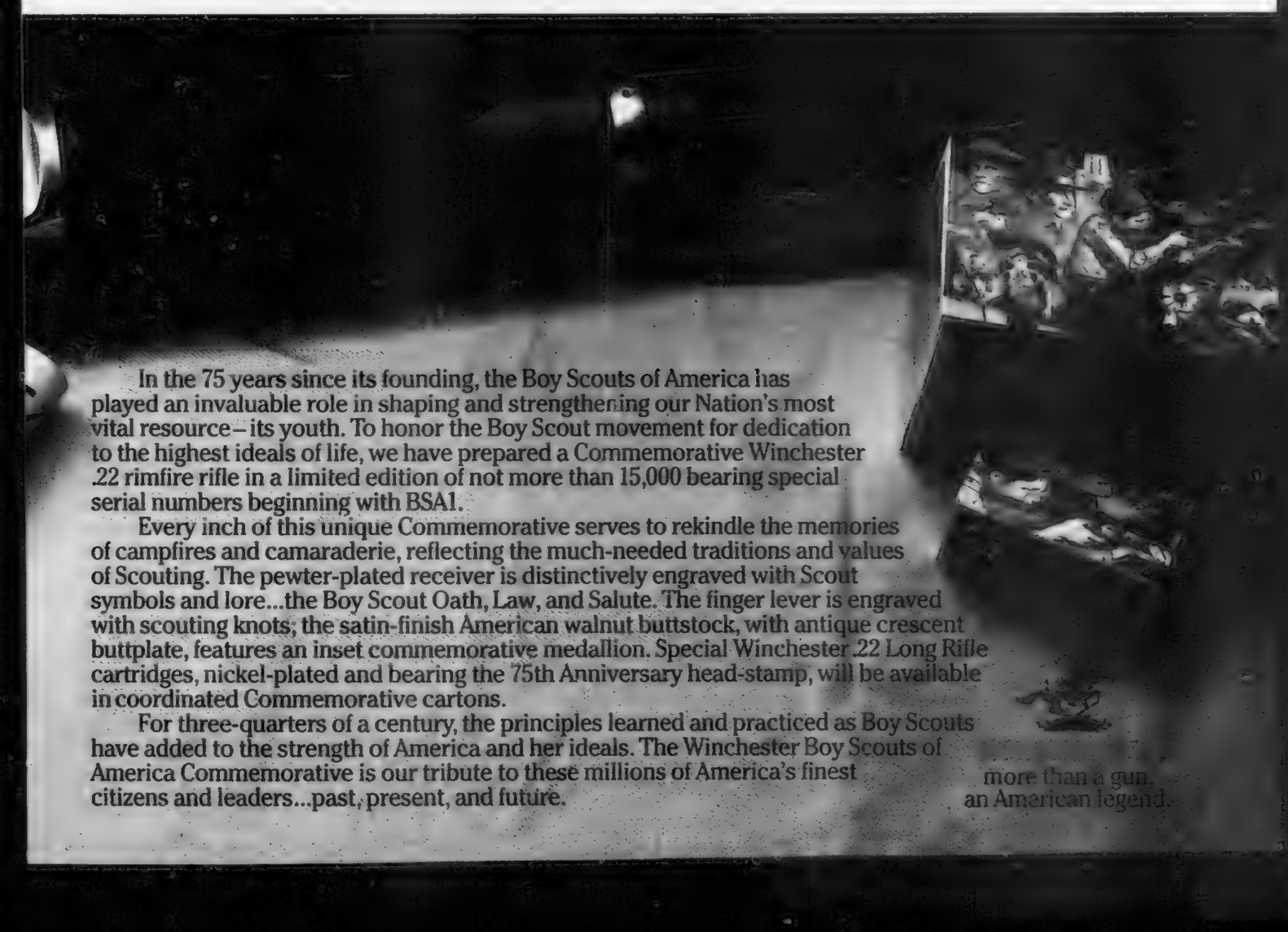
Closer to home-base at the lodge, trails and old logging roads fan out to superb viewpoints, flower-sprinkled mountain meadows, and lakes and streams teeming with trout. Norman Gladstone (co-owner and manager of the lodge, with his wife Birgit Westergaard) has a map that shows all these trails. Or maybe you prefer fishing on Little Gun Lake or paddling about in a canoe looking for osprey, eagles, and loons. Or you may take a guided trail-ride into the high country or even climb an 8,600-foot mountain.

After all this outdoorsmanship, many of us might be perfectly happy at day's end with hamburgers and beans and a bunk in a cabin. No such luck at this lodge. Raise your expectations. You'll discover one of Canada's top-rated restaurants under this roof. Birgit Westergaard creates fantastic meals, melding the cuisine of her native Denmark, Continental specialties, and the inspiration of the moment. As a bonus, the cheerful dining room offers restful views of the quiet, forest-girt lake.

Then, before bunk time, you'll want to relax by the fire in the two-story-high living room. You can enjoy good books and games and sip a choice of liqueurs—or the house specialty, Chilcotin Coffee. And so to bed. The six bedrooms in the lodge are cozy and comfortable, in a crisp Scandinavian fashion. Each room has a private bath.

If Little Gun Lake Lodge sounds like your kind of place, but you don't care to drive the six hours or so from Vancouver, B.C. (even though the scenery, especially along Duffy and Carpenter lakes, is gorgeous: snow-capped peaks, rushing rivers in deep canyons, forest picnic sites along the way), you have alternatives. You may ride the British Columbia Railway from Vancouver to Lillooet and arrange in advance for pickup by the lodge or charter a float plane from Vancouver or a helicopter from Pemberton. The lodge will help with arrangements. Little Gun Lake Lodge's address is General Delivery, Gold Bridge, British Columbia, Canada V0K 1P0. Telephone (604)238-2277. The lodge is open May 1 to October 31.

Rachel Bard *is the author of* Country Inns of the Far West: Pacific Northwest *and writes frequently about historic hideaways.*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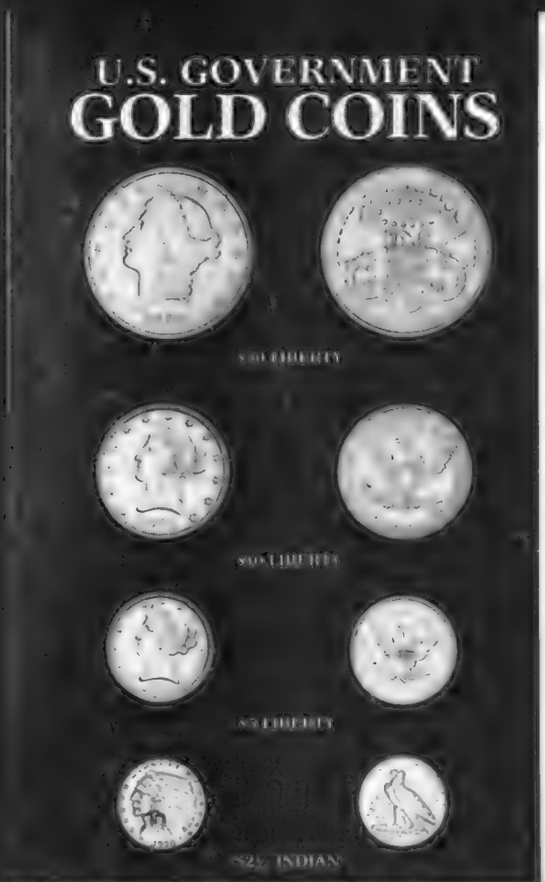

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Western Art Notes

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Utah Landscapes of LeConte Stewart

Utah artist LeConte Stewart has led a long, productive life in the arts, gaining national recognition for his paintings of Utah life during the Great Depression. A realist who incorporates impressionist techniques in his use of color and light, Stewart long ago took the advice of his teachers at the Art Students League in New York: he has painted what he knows best—the rural areas, canyonlands, and deserts of Utah. About two hundred LeConte Stewart paintings taken from collections throughout the Western states are now on exhibit at the Church Museum of History and Art in Salt Lake City. Stewart's urban, Depression-era scenes, reminiscent of the work of Edward Hopper, are also included in this major retrospective. Ninety-four years old this April, Stewart still ventures regularly into the countryside to paint rural landscapes. His work will be on view through April 4.

Also featured at the Church Museum through March 24 is a show of contemporary color photographs that portray a disappearing Mormon landscape. A selection of Gary Peterson prints focuses on farm villages, barns, and people in the landscape.

Elephantine prints from John James Audubon's *Birds of America* series make up the inaugural exhibition in the Isaac H. Lionberger Courtyard Gallery of the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis this winter. Twenty-five chromo-lithographs of birds native to Missouri can be seen free of charge through March 1985.

Heritage Quilts, a major exhibit of one hundred handmade, regional patchworks—displayed as art and historic documents—will be on view at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland through June. The exhibit includes one quilt by Laura Ingalls Wilder (author of *Little House on the Prairie)* as well as some contemporary designs. Lectures and a prize-winning film by nationally recognized authorities are planned to complement the show.

So the Spirit Flows is a continuing series of demonstrations and small exhibits at the Museum of the American Indian in New York City. From March 26 through 30 the Museum will present David Bradley, a painter of the Ojibway tribe. Mazatl Galinda, a Nahuatl Indian of Mexico, will play and talk about the musical instruments of Meso-America from April 23 through 26..

Panoramic Photographs by E. O. Goldbeck—a treasure of unique, multi-foot-long views of Texas from the first half of this cen-

tury—will be exhibited between March 18 and May 1 at the Institute for Texan Cultures in San Antonio. This show, which focuses on military and Western subjects around Goldbeck's home of San Antonio, is a selection from a traveling exhibit organized by the Laguna Gloria Museum in Austin.

Inner Light: The Shaker Aesthetic Legacy stresses the purity of Shaker design and its influence on modern American painters and photographers since the 1920s. Recent photographs by Linda Butler depicting existing Shaker communities will be displayed together with nineteenth-century Shaker furniture and artifacts through March 31 at the Denver Museum of Art.

Three Remingtons, stolen six years ago from the home of a New Jersey art collector, turned up in San Francisco last November with the help of an unnamed art dealer and the local office of the FBI. *The Search* and *Cowboy Fun in Mexico*, both oils, are now valued at $50,000 and $150,000 respectively, while the $150,000 price tag of *Pony War Dance*, a piece in watercolor and gouache, is devalued somewhat by a tear. At the time of this writing the New Jersey collector has still not received his treasures. They are being held as possible evidence should the case come to trial.

Japanese Ink Paintings. In this exhibit the history of Sumi-e, or monochrome ink painting, is followed from its development in the fifteenth century through the early nineteenth century. Running March 8 through May 12, the display of subtle, rich landscape paintings includes many national treasures of Japan. It will be seen only at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. At the same time, Japanese netsuke (intricate miniature carvings) from the early eighteenth century to recent times will be on view. The netsuke show runs until June.

William Penhallow Henderson: Master Colorist. Henderson, one of the Southwest's talented but little-known artists, painted the exotic and brightly colored Indian dancers of New Mexico and Arizona. Seventy of his works from the early twentieth century, both in the Southwest and elsewhere, are on view at the Museum of Western Art in Denver through April 9.

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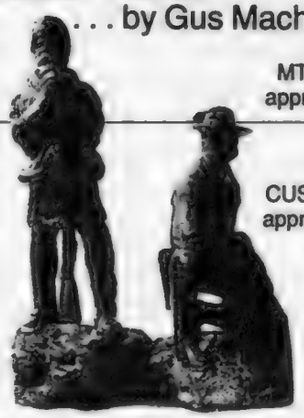

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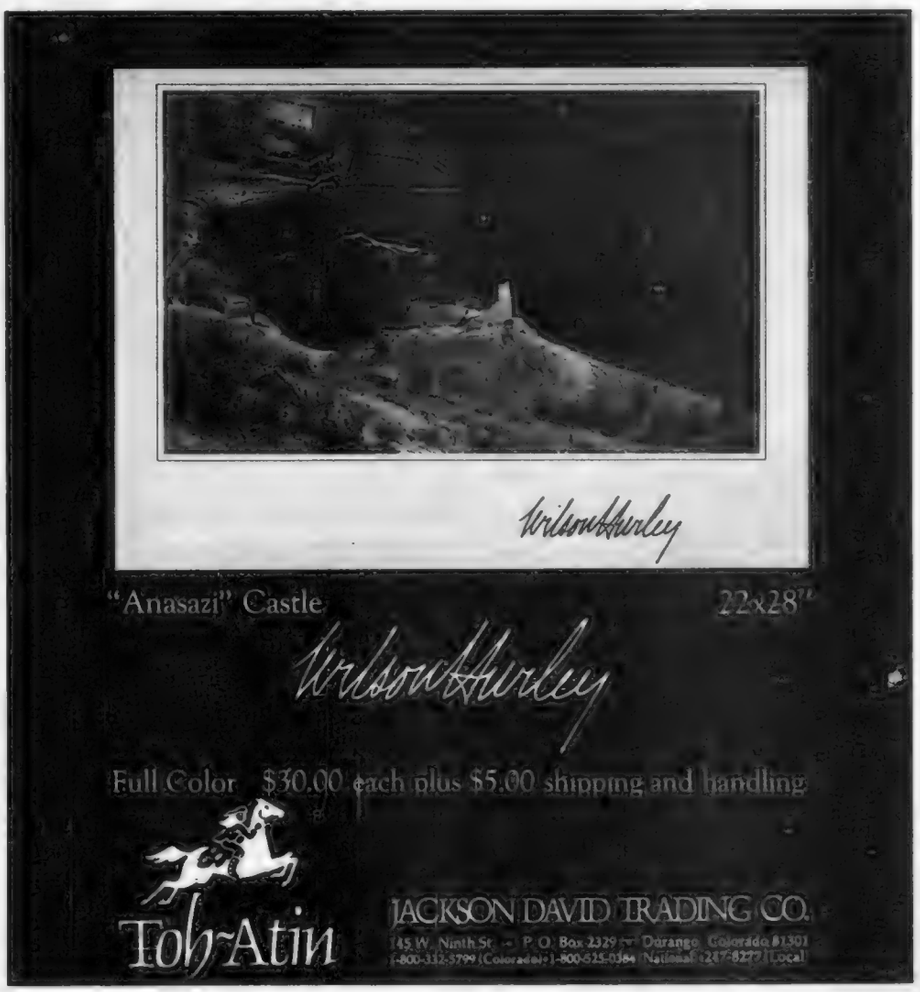

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Queen Elizabeth Visits Wyoming

British monarch savors the land and the people

by Tad Bartimus

Queen Elizabeth's smile reflects her pleasure as she greets Kathy Israel, co-owner of the Big Horn Mercantile in Big Horn, Wyoming.

PHOTO BY SHERRY TODD

PHOTO BY BILL WUNSCH, THE DENVER POST

THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND WAS LUCKY. THOSE TENUOUS days of Indian summer, perfect afternoons of cornflower skies and golden aspens, held the cutting edge of winter at bay. Even Mother Nature behaved properly when Elizabeth II made her long-awaited pilgrimage to Wyoming last October. The queen was not on a mission of pomp and circumstance when her huge Royal Air Force jet, the largest plane ever to land at the Sheridan County Airport, came in on October 12, 1984. For months, Buckingham Palace had been parsimonious about details of the monarch's private visit to the United States following a state tour of Canada.

No, said the palace, the queen would not meet with President Reagan in an election year. No, said the British Embassy in Washington, Elizabeth II would not attend any formal receptions or dinners. No, said press secretary Michael Shea, Her Majesty would not permit details of her vacation to be released to the eager media awaiting her arrival in the Colonies.

The lid was on. Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, was going to Kentucky and Wyoming to have fun. The United States Secret Service, Scotland Yard, and even an explosives-sniffing dog named Chico, made sure she got it.

Elizabeth spent her first four days in the United States touring horse farms in and around Lexington, Kentucky. An avid racing fan and an expert on breeding thoroughbreds, the queen has won nearly $2 million with her stables since she came to the throne in 1952. Her escort and guide on the tour of Bluegrass stud farms was Lord Henry Porchester, manager of Elizabeth's racing stables.

The queen chose Sheridan County, Wyoming, as another destination for her first holiday outside Britain in fifteen years because her husband, Prince Philip, had been there in 1969 and was still talking about it. Elizabeth also wanted to stay at the century-old Canyon Ranch, a 4,000-acre spread in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains where one of her closest friends, Lord Henry's wife, Lady Jean Wallop Porchester, grew up.

Perhaps most of all, the royal tourist—so sheltered, so programmed—wanted to experience for herself the wide open spaces of the legendary American West, which holds such myth and magic for many who live in the Old World. So the queen, whose entire kingdom of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, is smaller than the 97,914 square miles of Wyoming, took her fiercely protected four days of privacy and squandered them. She did, as the song from *Camelot* says, "what the simple folk do."

Elizabeth savored the alien scent of sagebrush as she set the pace for a brisk five-mile hike with the Porchesters behind the

PHOTO BY SHERRY TODD

(Opposite) ***The Queen shakes hands with Skip Israel, co-owner of Big Horn Mercantile, the town's general store and post office. Others in the photograph are*** **(l. to r.)** ***Kathy Israel, Lady Porchester, and two members of the Queen's entourage.*** **(Left)** ***On the grounds of the Bradford Brinton Memorial near Big Horn, the Queen talks with Bill Johnson, the Sheridan County Sheriff.***

Canyon Ranch's modest three-bedroom farmhouse. She dined in a restaurant and ordered from the bill of fare for only the third time in her fifty-eight years. She picnicked on the flank of a mountain and listened to the quicksilver waters of Little Goose Creek. She was disappointed that several bugling bull elk, spooked by her guards on horseback, vanished into the timber before she could catch her first glimpse of the wapiti. She relaxed in comfortable shoes beside a crackling fire and watched some of winter's first snowflakes fall. And she went shopping for Christmas presents for her children and grandchildren.

When, too soon, her foray into the real world was over, the petite woman who has anchored the British throne for thirty-two years resolutely put on her hat and gloves, waved a reluctant farewell, and flew home to resume her public role as a symbol of stability in a troubled world.

But Wyoming—its people and its landscape—sent her winging away with mementos and memories. "In all the six years I've worked for her, I've never seen the queen so relaxed," said press secretary Shea. "Her Majesty very much liked the American West. Who wouldn't?"

Indeed. Britons have been fascinated by the vast plains and towering peaks beyond the Mississippi River since the first mountain men trapped beaver for London haberdashers in the reign of Queen Victoria. Many of the lesser sons of English, Scottish, and Irish noblemen struck out for the "wild and woolly West" in hopes of finding the fortunes denied them by an accident of birth. These second, third, and fourth sons stood almost no chance of inheriting their father's title or a castle. Most of them, however, got regular checks from across the sea and therefore became known as "remittance men."

THOSE GENTLEMEN ADVENTURERS OF THE 1880S AND early 1890s left an indelible mark on Wyoming. They arrived in Cheyenne on the Union Pacific from Chicago with perfect manners, fine rifles, a kit bag full of fancy duds that ultimately earned them the label of "dude," and sweeping visions of how the West could be won. Few planned a long-term commitment to the New World. Mostly they wanted to enjoy good hunting, make a quick fortune using somebody else's capital, and return home as conquering—and very rich—heroes who'd played cowboy for a while.

But several of these immigrants, including Lady Porchester's grandfather Oliver Henry Wallop—later known as the seventh Earl of Portsmouth—came to call the American West their true home. They had dreams and influential friends who bankrolled them. In an age of no fences, few Indians, and a faraway government in Washington, the first Wyoming cattlemen made their own rules. In the 1880s, more than $20 million from the British Isles was sunk into vast ranches in Wyoming.

Remittance men either held majority control or acted as managers for some of the most famous brands roaming the open range.

A century ago Wyoming Englishmen entertained leading lights of London society on their large spreads. Lord and Lady Randolph Churchill (they left baby Winston at home in England) and a covey of dukes and duchesses and American millionaires visited Moreton and Richard Frewen's Powder River Cattle Company, which sprawled over a million acres about two hundred miles north of Cheyenne. Some of the guests arrived, like the actress and great beauty Lillie Langtry, in private railcars at the Cheyenne depot. Visiting gentlemen were entertained by members—some of whose names were registered in Burke's Peerage—at the Cheyenne Club where high-rollin' cattlemen drank champagne for breakfast, played poker with gold pieces, and boasted of the finest chef and wine cellar in the whole danged country. A century ago an Englishman's Wyoming sideboard groaned with bear and elk steaks, pheasant and quail, trout, and all the trimmings. The Frewens' table seated twenty-two, and there was a ballroom on the second floor.

When Queen Elizabeth came to visit Lord and Lady Porchester at the Canyon Ranch near Big Horn, Wyoming, she was entertained simply. The two-story, wood-sided log house owned by Jean Wallop Porchester and her sister Carolyn has only three bedrooms, a modest dining room, and an ordinary kitchen. But the view is a spectacular vista of rolling hills, granite peaks, pine and aspen trees, and an unbroken 180-degree sweep of sky.

Elizabeth and her husband have known the Porchesters for many years—the queen has been friends with "Porchie," who's now sixty, since childhood. After he married American beauty Jean Margaret Wallop in 1955 when she was twenty-two, his bride was included in the tight-knit, royal circle.

In keeping with their knowledge of the queen's tastes, the Porchesters planned simple meals during Elizabeth's visit. One night the longtime Wallop housekeeper, who returned to the ranch for the occasion, prepared a roast beef with traditional vegetables. Grace Kukuchka, who is now retired, also was instructed to fix delicate green salads with a light vinaigrette dressing. At Porchester's request, a ham with pineapple sauce was served one evening.

Andy Kukuchka, Grace's husband and a foreman at the Wallop spread for twenty-eight years before moving next door to oversee the upkeep of the Bradford Brinton Memorial Museum, spent a lot of time showing the queen the mountain sights. Years ago he taught Jean Wallop and her siblings how to fish, ride, and understand the wild animals that pass through their lands.

Little Goose canyon and the Big Horn mountains ten miles south of Sheridan have changed little since Jean's grandfather first came into the country from England a century ago. The fifth son of the Earl of Portsmouth, Oliver H. Wallop started out in Montana as the first western breeder of thoroughbred horses, according to his grandson, Jean's brother, Senator Malcolm H. Wallop, R-Wyoming, who today owns the Canyon Ranch land.

Queen Elizabeth enjoyed the historical displays and the pleasant grounds of the Bradford Brinton Memorial, with the Wyoming hills in the background. Here, caretaker Andy Kukuchka shows the Queen around, accompanied by his two Golden Labradors. That's Katie enjoying a friendly pat on the head.

In 1888 the newcomer moved to the tiny settlement of Big Horn—which today still has only about 200 residents—because it was "less social." Oliver Henry prospered. He married Marguerite Walker of Chicago and fathered two sons, Gerard and Oliver Malcolm Wallop. His cousins, Malcolm and William Moncreiffe of Perthshire, Scotland, also were remittance men. They came from a nobleman's family of sixteen children. At the encouragement of Oliver Henry, the Moncreiffes formed a partnership with him to round up wild horses throughout the West, and to sell them to the British army for its various war efforts throughout the Empire. In only two years, in the early 1900s, Wallop and the Moncreiffes sold the British 20,000 head for the Boer War.

Senator Wallop says the polo field located on the Polo Ranch in Big Horn got its name because: "A British officer would buy the horses if they were ridden the length of a polo field first. That is how the polo field came to be. The field, we believe, is now the oldest polo field in America." First owned by the Moncreiffes, then bequeathed to the senator, the Polo Ranch is no longer in the family. But the polo field is still used every Sunday between Memorial Day and Labor Day by avid Wyoming cowboys and ranchers whose polo matches draw big crowds of spectators. King's Saddlery in Sheridan stocks polo equipment as standard items in its inventory.

Oliver H. Wallop became a United States citizen in 1904, and was elected to the Wyoming legislature in 1908. His tenure there is remembered for his efforts to establish some of the state's first protection laws for wildlife. Meanwhile, his life at the Canyon Ranch reflected his upbringing among the English upper classes—hard work, good manners, warm hospitality for visitors. The same environment was found at the Polo Ranch, where Malcolm Moncreiffe lived, and at the Quarter Circle A, where William Moncreiffe settled.

Beatrice Gallatin Beuf remembers many happy times at the three ranches. She was four years old in 1911 when her father, Goelet Gallatin of New York, brought her for the summer to the Quarter Circle A. Mrs. Beuf recalls:

> In the summer there were picnics, pony rides, and cowboys everywhere. There were still Indians about. People were always coming through for a visit. I remember "Uncle" Willie riding this whopping big black horse named Black Bird; he was always pounding along on that animal. "Uncle" Malcolm Moncreiffe used to celebrate special occasions by wearing his kilt to dinner—he looked grand all dressed up like that.

PHOTO BY BILL WUNSCH, THE DENVER POST

AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Mrs. Beuf is nearly eighty now but still lives on the land her father eventually bought from William Moncreiffe. She rides her Arabian horse every day the fickle Wyoming weather permits, ranging far up into the hills that she knows better than most suburbanites know their own backyards.

Jean Wallop Porchester, whose mother was Bea Beuf's best friend before her death in 1943, chose Mrs. Beuf to sit at the queen's table during a lively dinner party at the Maverick Supper Club on one of the three nights the monarch was in Wyoming. Elizabeth and Bea talked about horses, racing, what a grand time the royal guest was having, and the beauty of the local scenery.

"She was charming, very knowledgeable about her horses, a lovely person, and a real thoroughbred," said Mrs. Beuf, who correctly guessed several days before the event that Elizabeth would select a "queen-size filet mignon" as her entree. The queen also ordered hash-brown potatoes with onions "because I have never tasted them," and pitched in with the other seven diners at her table to pass around, family style, appetizer bowls of pinto beans, cottage cheese, and freshly sliced tomatos that are a specialty of the house.

Eunice and Lionel McEwan, owners of the Maverick who had been nervous wrecks for months preparing for the queen's private party for about sixty guests, had wanted to make a special dessert in her honor. But Lady Porchester rejected the idea, requesting that the McEwans serve their usual ice cream because "you can't get good ice cream in England." Elizabeth spooned up every bit of her chocolate treat.

PRESENT AT THE DINNER, HOSTED BY THE QUEEN AND HELD in the same log-cabin restaurant where Prince Philip hosted a smaller group during his Canyon Ranch stay in 1969, were many of the people who had worked so hard to assure Elizabeth's successful vacation. Besides her press secretary, two personal servants, and her Scotland Yard detective, the queen said "thank you" to American Secret Service agents, Sheridan County Sheriff Bill Johnson, British Embassy personnel from Washington, D.C., who had travelled with her to brief the press and provide smooth transition with local officials, and several personal friends of the Porchesters' who live in Sheridan County. It was an informal occasion. A forty-five-minute cocktail hour preceded dinner, during which the queen mingled with her guests and, according to all reports, put them at ease with her warm and friendly manner.

That seemed to be the reaction wherever Elizabeth went during the seventy-two hours she spent in Wyoming. She brought smiles and excited greetings from the parka-clad crowd who applauded her during her hour-long shopping trip at two stores

PHOTO BY SHERRY TODD

COURTESY AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

(Opposite) ***Elizabeth II offers an affectionate greeting to her hostess and longtime friend, Lady Porchester, who was Jean Margaret Wallop of Wyoming.*** **(Left)** ***The Queen was fascinated with the merchandise at the Big Horn Mercantile, especially with the beef jerky. When she saw the large pumpkins on the porch, she remarked, "Wonderful to see all these pumpkins."*** **(Above)** ***In 1901 this log house, known as Bircher's Roadhouse, sat on the Wallops' Canyon Ranch at the west base of Teton Pass.***

on Main Street in Sheridan. Dorothy King, an owner of King's Saddlery where Elizabeth bought nylon bridles, two pairs of gloves, a silver belt buckle, and hand-tooled belt, said that after the first few minutes in the queen's presence, the family was not nervous about showing the monarch around their world-famous tack and rope business. Sam Mavrakis, across the street at his Ritz Sporting Goods store, echoed those sentiments. He was especially pleased at Elizabeth's reaction when he presented his handmade graphite fly rod and a box of hand-tied trout flies for her husband. "She said he'd be very thrilled with them," remarked Mavrakis, who shared a drink with Prince Philip fifteen years ago at the Canyon Ranch.

At the Brinton Memorial, which the queen toured for more than an hour during her visit, she showed great interest in the ranch house's carefully preserved collection of Western art. She was especially captivated by the bright splashes of purple and pink that Charles M. Russell used so deftly to capture the moods of the mountains and plains.

In a circuitous twist of fate, Oliver H. Wallop is responsible for the visit to Wyoming by the Queen of England. He began the circle a century ago by tying his lineage to American soil. Although forced to renounce his United States citizenship when his father and four elder brothers preceded him in death and he unexpectedly became the seventh Earl of Portsmouth, Oliver Wallop travelled "home" from England and his place in the House of Lords to die beside Little Goose Creek in 1947. His son Gerard, now in his ninth decade, is the eighth Earl of Portsmouth.

And now Jean Margaret Wallop Porchester, born and raised on the Canyon Ranch, has completed the circle by marrying her English lord and bringing up her own three children at Highclere in Hampshire. But she keeps her home in the Big Horns and her American passport.

The tie that binds Englishmen and Americans together among the mountains of Wyoming remains unbroken. Like generations of British tourists before her, Queen Elizabeth II came to see for herself that distant place across the sea that the poet once called "the land of the sunset."

As her VC10 revved up its four giant jet engines and prepared to fly Elizabeth II home, press secretary Shea expressed the feelings of his regal boss:

"Her Majesty had a magnificent time. She hopes to come again one day."

Tad Bartimus *is a transplanted midwesterner who now lives in Colorado with her artist husband and writes about the Rocky Mountain region for a wire service.*

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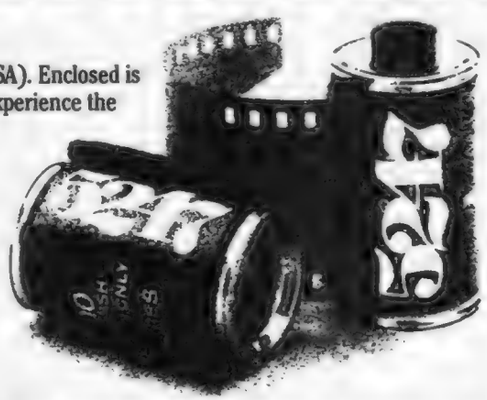

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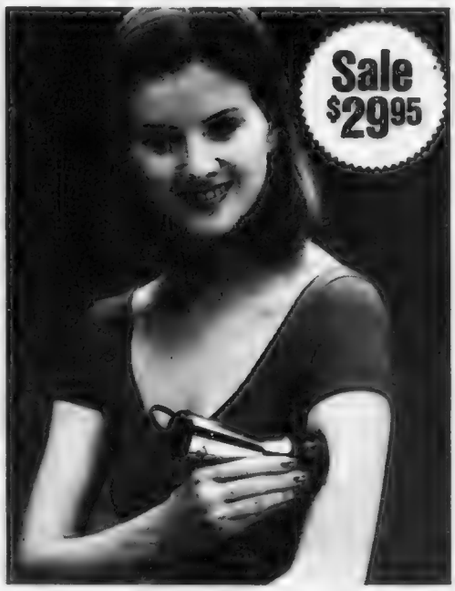

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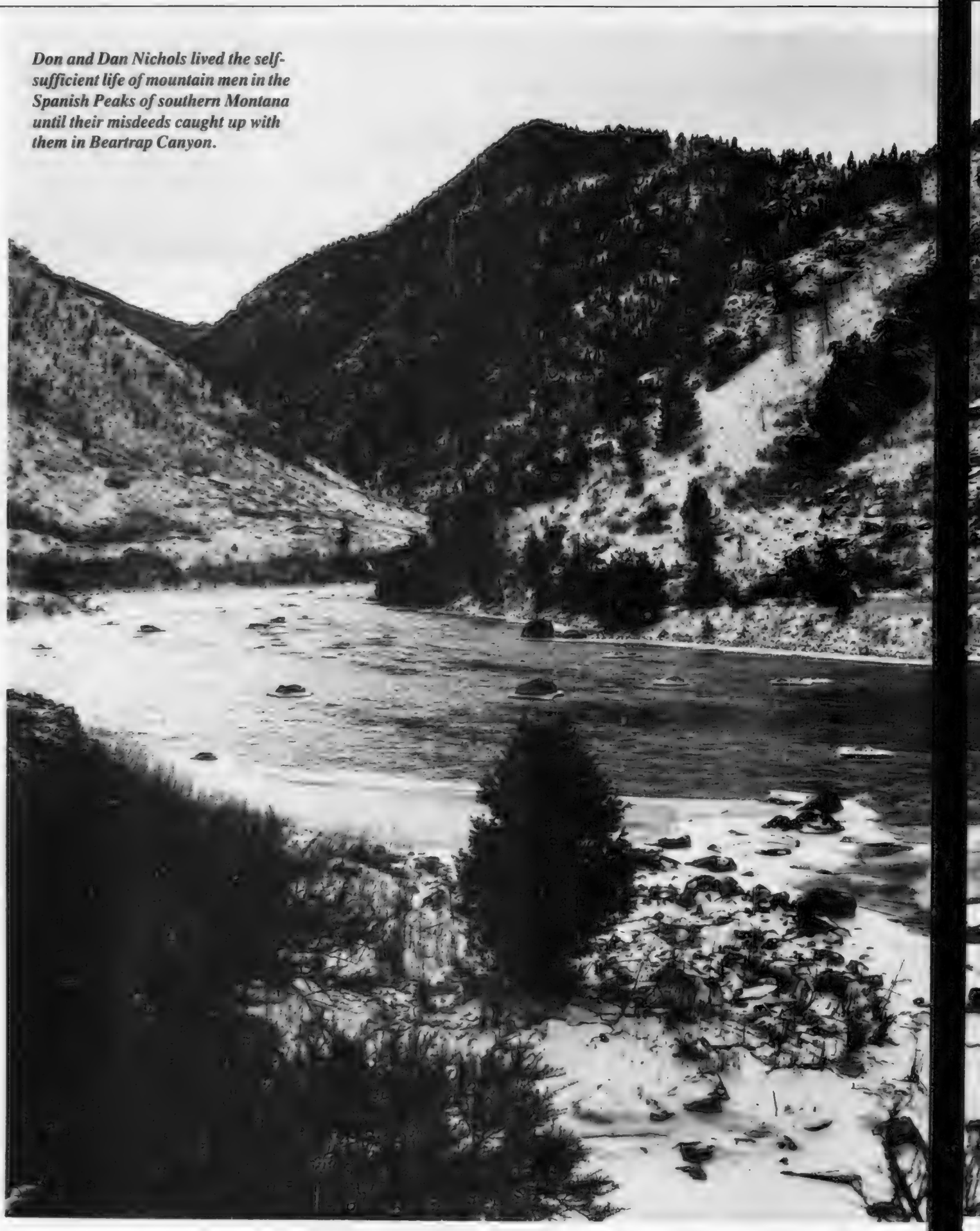
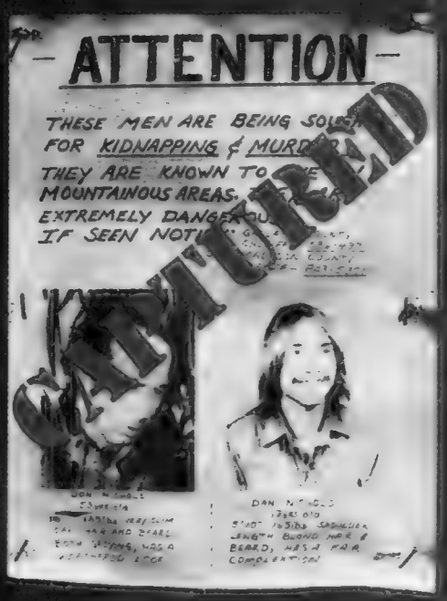


Don and Dan Nichols lived the self-sufficient life of mountain men in the Spanish Peaks of southern Montana until their misdeeds caught up with them in Beartrap Canyon.



Wanted for Montana Mountain Men — Kidnapping and Murder

A tragedy of men who destroyed the freedom they love

by Douglas H. Chadwick

BOTH PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

ON THE MORNING OF JULY 15, 1984, KARI SWENSON SET out for a six-mile training run in the Madison Range in southwestern Montana. Twenty-three years of age, Kari had just been graduated as an honor student in biology from the state university at Bozeman. Having grown up around this tall stretch of Montana, she was a skilled hiker, camper, and whitewater canoeist. She was also a fine shot with a rifle and a particularly fine, strong skier. In fact, she had proven herself in a recent international competition to be America's leading performer in the biathlon—the Nordic event, derived from battle training, which combines cross-country skiing with marksmanship. That she was virtually certain to represent the United States in upcoming winter Olympics seemed all the more significant just then, with the nation's attention focusing upon the summer Olympics soon to begin in Los Angeles.

Kari was working during the summer as a waitress at Big Sky, the large resort-complex on a slope of the Madisons. Big Sky is a mountain world of ski villages, jacuzzis, golfing greens, dude ranches, condominiums, restaurants and shops with Bavarian Alp decor, and its own weekly newspaper with wine-tasting tips and a column entitled Tennis Tidbits. That morning Kari went, as she often did, up one of the logging roads that had spread through this part of the range since the resort went in. Then she loped onto the trail toward Ulerys Lakes and Moonlight Basin, half-hoping to spot the grizzly that Lone Mountain Ranch owner Bob Schaap had watched feeding in the area the day before.

Griz. That's what Schaap was stewing about toward dusk when Kari still wasn't back. He called her parents. Bob Swenson, head of the university's physics department, took to the air in a friend's light plane to scout. Jan Swenson, a nurse at the university's student health clinic, headed out to the ranch. Gallatin County sheriff John Onstad rammed together a search team, and they, too, left for the ranch.

The next morning two of Kari's friends at the ranch, Alan Goldstein and Jim Schwalbe—both emigrants from the midwest who moved to Big Sky to be near the mountains—went out in the predawn light to help comb the mountainside for the young woman. They were coming down a timbered slope through windthrown trees, huckleberry brush, and beargrass when Kari hollered. The message didn't register. Was she shouting a warning not to come any closer? Then they heard a shot, and Kari screamed. It was 7:50 A.M., still cold and dark-shadowed under the forest canopy. Schwalbe was still thinking bear trouble when he went forward and found Kari lying in a sleeping bag, bound by a chain around her waist to a fallen log, bleeding from a .22 bullet hole through one lung.

A young blond man was holding a pistol, shaking, and saying, "Oh my God, I shot her!" Next to him was a wiry older man with a kind of storm-light in his eyes, covering Schwalbe with a .222 rifle, demanding again and again if Schwalbe had a gun, and ordering the young man—who was still carrying on about shooting Kari and seemed on the verge of crying—to shut up, Dan, just shut up. Schwalbe told them to calm down. He turned to tend to Kari, with the young man trying to help and the older man's rifle poking his ribs. Kari's pants were down around her lower legs, and Schwalbe was only now fully realizing that she was being held prisoner.

Goldstein, though, had figured out a few things. Approaching the camp, he drew a .308 pistol from his pack and crouched with it pointed toward the scene. "Drop your guns," he commanded. "You're surrounded by 200 men." The older man shifted his weight against a tree to steady his aim and shot Alan Goldstein dead in the center of the face. Schwalbe paused an instant and then bolted straight uphill, clenching his back muscles against the bullet he knew was coming. None came. He raced back a mile and a half and told the sheriff that two maniacs had killed his partner and probably raped Kari.

IT WAS NEARLY NOON BEFORE THE SEARCH TEAM WAS ABLE to regroup and, led by Schwalbe, close in on the camp. Kari was there alone. She had managed to crawl over to wrap herself in a sleeping bag from Goldstein's pack and had eaten some of his trail rations. Her vision was fading in and out, but she was still coherent, still braving it through.

She said that the day before, she had run onto the men's camp, and they had appeared out of the woods and knocked her down. After lashing her wrist to the younger man's, they started dragging her upslope, planning to take her to a high camp behind the peaks. They told her that they were real mountain people, not like other men, and that they wanted to make a mountain woman of her for the younger man. She would choose their way of life willingly, they insisted, if she would try it for two or three days. Kari dug in her heels and fought as best she could. Resting alone for a few moments with the younger man, she asked him if he couldn't just let her go. He thought on it and replied, "No. You're pretty. I'm going to keep you."

They had not raped her. They had made her take off her pants—those day-glo orange jogging shorts that Kari's mother had given her in case she ever became lost—and were darkening them with charcoal when they heard Schwalbe and Goldstein bushwhacking toward them. Kari said she thought that the young man had shot her accidentally when he spun around to tell her to be quiet. Then he had pleaded with the older man to let someone come to help her. Yet after Schwalbe's escape, he had roughly dumped her out of his sleeping bag, jerked up the pants that she had never had time to pull all the way back on, snatched off the chain, and left her oozing blood onto the chill ground. The last thing they said to her was, "We'll never be taken alive."

The Lone Mountain Ranch was evacuated. Other Big Sky residents double-checked locks and loaded their own guns. Sheer gut paranoia roiled beneath the dazed feeling that this sort of thing just doesn't happen here. Not amid such natural splendor. Not at tranquil Big Sky, in the best of all possible mountain worlds. This was where you came to get away from the smog of violent crime and fear, staining the soul in more crowded communities.

Yet a number of people suddenly recalled vaguely suspicious characters coming and going and loitering in the area. A car with fishing gear and a .38 revolver was stolen from a motel by Big Sky. Just fifteen miles west across the mountains, two men matching the fugitives' description pulled a

woman from her car and beat her up. More look-alike suspects were reported from mountain towns near the Canadian line in Washington and Idaho.

Not one of the leads came close to connecting. The self-described real mountain people, the lawmen now believed, were still up there, toward the crags. Who were they, then, those two with the incredible arrogance to see a woman they wanted and haul her back toward their lair, as if times hadn't changed since the Stone Age? What was this fantasy of making her one of their kind—a mountain woman? As if nothing had changed since Plains Indians celebrated the stealing of women and horses, while mountain men traded beads for a female to breed and called marrying "trapping a squaw."

Joel Beardsley, a stylish middle-aged woman who winters in Florida and summers at Big Sky, went up to go riding at Lone Mountain Ranch the morning Kari was found. Normally, Goldstein might have caught her horse for her. Schwalbe took care of her lawn. Told that bad people trouble was afoot somewhere above them, she said to the sheriff, "I wonder if it could have anything to do with those men I met two days ago at Upper Ulerys Lake?"

Mrs. Beardsley was floating in an innertube, casting for trout, when the wind put her over by the bank and she saw them. She spoke with them for a spell and found them nice enough, though as she drifted closer she felt a brief twinge of vulnerability. Possibly it was the look of their clothes and gear; these people, she sensed, had been out a long time. Maybe it was the rifle and pistol that each carried—not really unusual in this landscape, but not all that common before hunting season.

The younger man was inscribing something on a tree trunk. They asked her what day it was. She told them, and the younger man finished his inscription. Then her husband called out something from around a bend in the shoreline, and they vanished into the woods like smoke. Later, Kari told of hearing her captors say they wished they hadn't left their mark on that tree for all to see. The posse found it and chain-sawed it out. It read: Dan and Don Nichols live in These Mts. July 14, 1984.

SCRAMBLING FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION, OFFICIALS summed up their first impressions. It looked as though the phrase everyone was using, modern-day mountain men, fit. The older man, Don, is a Daniel Boone sort, announced one. A Jim Bridger type, declared another, getting closer geographically, for from almost any high point along the Madison Range you can see the Bridger Mountains standing above Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley. Daniel Boone (Dan) Nichols was Don's son and much the same type.

But what did such comparisons really mean? Montana must have a thousand varieties of folk stuck here and there around the backcountry who like to think of themselves as latter-day mountain men. Macho Western hillbilly types; around Big Sky they call themselves "bohakes." Not to mention the left-over flower-children with big bone-handled knives in their tipis. Plus the bedrock survivalists, arming themselves and reading up on foraging techniques, practicing for life after Armageddon.

They acted like old mountain men who "trapped squaws."

Montanan Kari Swenson, another of mountains, is a skilled cross-country skier and marksman. Before last July she held ten place among America's women biathlon contestants. But on one tragic morning, her life and Olympic hopes were shattered by the careless of two men who loved the mountains as a place to live out their own callous desires.

What of the nostalgia buffs, who might sell used cars five days a week and rendezvous on weekends all got-up in beads and fringed buckskins and coonskin caps to fire black-powder Hawkins rifles? And the truly devout among the backpackers and hunters and other wildland-seekers who pride themselves on serious critter-savvy and bushcraft? How about those men who care less for the mountains or any particular role than for simply being out some place where people will leave them the hell alone?

The lawmen soon had more facts to flesh out the names. Don Nichols, fifty-three, and Dan, then nineteen, had lived in the Madison Range each summer for the past dozen years, principally in the northern end among what are known as the Spanish Peaks (currently protected as a unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness). They stayed on through the fall, winter, and spring of 1983–84. Their camps, stocked with provisions and carefully concealed, were scattered through the steep terrain, and they came into those shelters by a different route each time to avoid leaving any sign of a path. They had at least one underground hideout—a great hole, they had told Kari. They had small gardens of root crops planted in among the natural cover on slopes where seepwater would irrigate them.

Don was known as a head-shooter of game. But rather than firepower, he and Dan preferred to use silent wire snares. Like some Indians, they would catch animals as large as deer this way yet could live well on tree squirrels, ground squirrels, grouse, and jays. Unlike men of earlier times, they had a bicycle for transporting gear over trails and logging roads, a radio for news and weather updates, and books—Don was an avid reader (though never of fiction), a prolific letter-writer, and sketcher. And they carried ever-present binoculars.

They kept an eye on everyone else but surely disliked being seen. Don might speak with one of the two or three guides he had come to know slightly. If the guide brought other people along, Don would turn and walk away. He neither drank nor smoked nor craved anything a town might offer, and he was fit as a wolverine. He had hiked from the Madisons down through Yellowstone a few times, living off the land as he went, and a few times up the Great Divide 300 miles to the Canadian border to visit a fellow mountain man.

Never mind all the conflicting meanings of mountain man. These two were just what they claimed to be: real mountain people in 1984—smart, wary, self-sufficient, feral human beings who had made this high country their habitat. "If you take an animal that is adept in the wilderness and instill the power of human reasoning, you have a product that is nearly impossible to capture," observed Madison County sheriff Johnny France shortly after joining Gallatin County forces in the manhunt.

A SWAT team from Billings was called into the chase, too. And trackers with hounds, and helicopters with infrared sensing devices to locate a campfire's heat, and a special FBI agent—a man who had been in on the fifteen-month hunt for Claude Dallas, the renegade trapper who shot two game wardens in some sage-dry Idaho mountains in 1981. Forest Service employees were put on the Nichols scent. The cowboys over at the Diamond J across the Madison crest from Big Sky were all packing pistols, alert for any breakout try down their side. Posses patrolled on foot, horseback, by trail bike, with night-vision rifle scopes. The media moved in just behind them, packing video equipment, hunkering down in the wildwoods to whizz out electronic scenes, data, rugged phrases on portable word processors.

Amidst all this fofurraw—as mountain men used to call geegaws and hubbub—came the announcement that the outlaws were probably holed up in the bouldered basin that encircles Jerome Lakes. A military-scale assault was imminent, a shootout highly likely.

BUT THE NICHOLSES WERE NOWHERE TO BE OVERPOWERED, and their trail quickly grew cold. Home went the SWAT team. Sweeps of the topography became sporadic. The official word now was that the mountain men had probably lit out for another of the interconnected mountain ranges wrinkling up this region. A geology crew I knew of working 100 miles from the Madisons shut down its project and fled back to Denver. All across western Montana, tourists off the planes wanted to know where they could hike without running into any mountain men. Over in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, a fellow riding a horse through a grocery store parking lot one night was jumped by two cops who took him for a mountain man and clobbered both him and his horse. He sued the city for $100,000.

Who was to say which way the Nicholses had gone? They could be on a march for the Yukon, for all anyone knew. Or perhaps toward Jackson Hole, the fur rendezvous site of a century past, where their mountain man friend from the Canadian border was living these days.

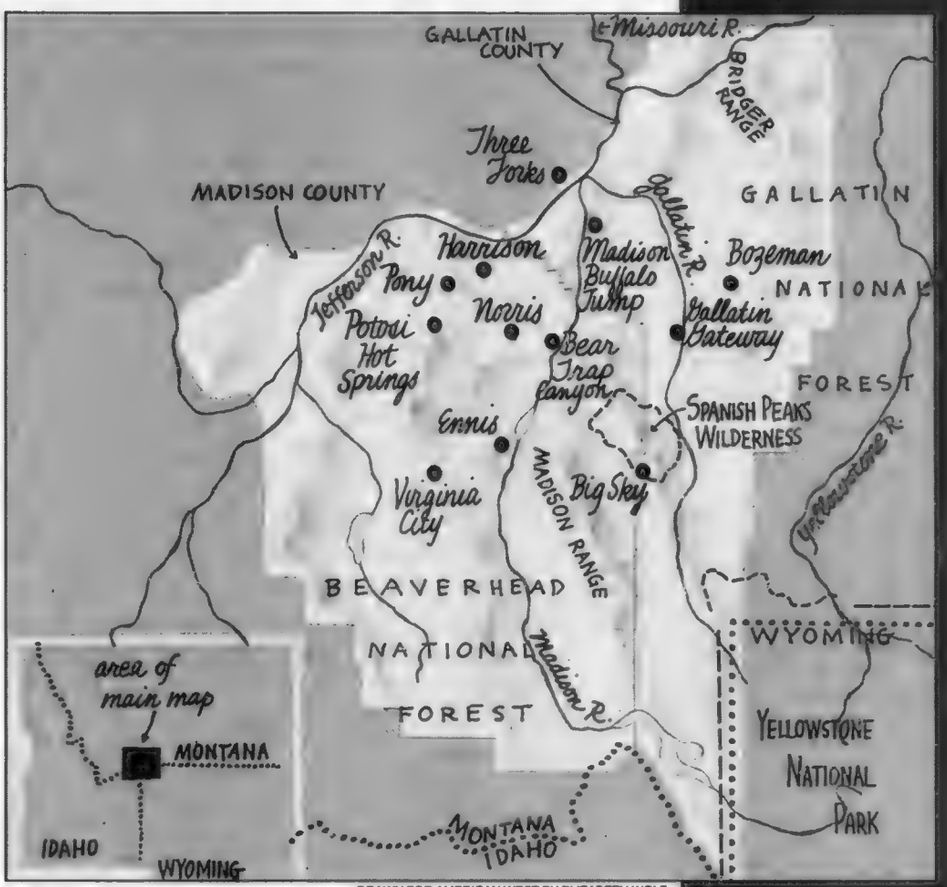
Years ago, I had known that man. I went up the valley from my cabin to visit him now and again. He was strong and agile, a good horseman, proficient at throwing a tomahawk. He drove the game warden and park rangers crazy trying to catch him taking game illegally. Conveniently, he had no use for artificial boundaries. Nor had he anything but disdain for what he termed the electrical umbilical cord that harnesses people to shrivelization, or siphilization, or civilization—what's the difference? In his cabin, though, beneath the engraved antlers and stretched hides and feather bundles, was a piano on which he played classical music. He sought his mountain woman by advertising for one in a magazine. And he got a capable, college-educated, lovely one. He wrapped her in ermine and soft otter skins and called her Dancing Fawn. He was a good long ways then from Vietnam, feeling clean again, whole.

Curiosity got an unexpectedly fierce grip on me, and I went to Bozeman and made it my base for asking around about the Nicholses and hiking the Madisons. I found that Don Nichols's mother, Maggie Engelmann (now in her late seventies) lives in Three Forks, about thirty miles west of Bozeman. She had three children by Pat Nichols, Don's father: Ted, who also lives in Three Forks, working at a nearby cement plant and occasionally playing guitar at country bars on weekends; Betty, who lives on a dairy farm about ten miles away near Manhattan with her husband, Walter Schneiter; and Don, the youngest.

During the Depression, Pat Nichols brought his family from Kansas to Norris, Montana, situated at the base of the Madison

Range, with the Tobacco Root Mountains rising across the valley to the east. Although it holds fewer than fifty residents at present, Norris supported close to 200 when the two gold mines in the area were still going. As a teenager in the sixties I spent a summer with my geologist father sampling the rock strata around one of them, Revenue Flats. Pat Nichols and his

They kept an eye on everyone else but disliked being seen.



DRAWN FOR AMERICAN WEST BY ELIZABETH WOLF

brother used to work at the other mine, the Boaz. They died when their car failed to make a corner on their way back from a party in Ennis one night. The car's still there rusting belly-up by the roadside. Don Nichols had grown to love going into the mountains with his father, who hunted and fished and sometimes hired out as a horse packer. Abruptly, forever, that was gone. Don was seven years old.

Times were hard for everyone, rougher still for a widow with three children. Maggie Nichols took in laundry and did sewing for the miners. And she dealt a bit more strictly with her children, wanting them closer by her side. A neighbor began stopping in to conduct weekly Bible study sessions with the family.

After a while, Maggie Nichols remarried, hitching up with another miner Steve Engelmann. Don missed his real father more than ever, though just how real Pat Nichols remained in his son's mind is tricky to judge; Don had apparently come to idolize him. His new stepfather had little interest in the far outdoors. He was, the locals thought, awful big and awful tough and kept the kids on a short leash.

As the mines shut down during WW II, the Engelmanns moved ten miles north up the valley to the ranching community of Harrison, population 150–200 then and now. There Engel-

mann tried farming and raising livestock on a couple of hundred acres a mile out of town on North Willow Creek. Even by the standards of independent Montanans, the Engelmanns were noted for keeping to themselves, partly because that farm kept absorbing all their efforts and never yielded much in return. It was just too small a spread in too Rocky Mountain a climate. People seldom saw Maggie Engelmann except at church sometimes.

FROM THE START, DON NEVER GOT ALONG WITH HIS STEPfather. They agreed on little or nothing and had their share or more of violent arguments. Nevertheless, in Harrison, as in Norris, folks remember Don as a fairly ordinary kid. Sure, a little poorer than most. And, well, a lot more quiet—always kind of a loner, and I know some of the kids picked on him for that. Another thing, they'd tell me, Don was darned sharp. Why he could type circles around the girls in class, can you imagine? He was a quick learner and an A student, and so was his brother Ted. Don read a lot. He was a pretty fair artist, too, always doodling and sketching.

Finally, Don Nichols had that other quality that became more pronounced every year as he developed physically. He was, marveled one old acquaintance after another, "the hikingest fool I've ever seen." "He would go up those hills like they weren't even there." "Don? He could outwalk a deer if he put his mind to it." Come to think of it, they'd add, he couldn't wait to get out in the mountains every chance he had back then. Not just to hunt and fish with the local boys, though he did that too, but because that was where he really wanted to be. His favorite place to cover ground was those Spanish Peaks, which was where his true father used to take him.

Don was always keen, too, for exploring the caves and old mine shafts you'll come across all through this country. The Madisons are full of holes from Norris all the way up to the alpine parklands called Cowboy Heaven in the Spanish Peaks. The summer I worked around Revenue Flats, I went to Potosi's hot springs—just west of Harrison up the flanks of the Tobacco Roots—to soak, and found a collection of squatters in the pine canyons there, meditating, smoking herbs, smoking illicit deer meat into jerky, talking of Indian spirits and such. The cowboys got a bellyful of it and burned the whole show out one night. On the other hand, while Don Nichols was growing up it wasn't considered strange at all for prospectors to spend the warm months moving through the hills with their families, living just about any way they could.

As soon as Don finished high school he enlisted in the Navy for an eight-year hitch. He mustered out early, weary of regulation, and went to West Virginia—mountain country in its own right. Here he took some advanced courses in chemistry and metallurgy and worked for Union Carbide, and married. Finally, he brought his West Virginia bride, Verdina, back to Harrison. For all his traveling, Don seemed little changed. You still had to squeeze conversation out of the guy. His wife was a quiet one as well and sort of shy, maybe because she felt out of place in this new part of the country.

They stuck around for the better part of a year, with Don apparently hoping that for once he might make a go of the old farm with his stepfather. But nothing worthwhile came of it, and Don and Verdina left for western Montana, where they purchased some property and raised hogs. For Don, the important thing was, as ever, to be near wild mountain country. He wanted to spend more time out, away from the little cabin he had built. Verdina, however, was looking the other direction, toward a more settled life, like the life other people had, especially now with the two children to consider. First had come Barbara, then tow-headed Dan. What would be best for them?

In 1971 Don and Verdina Nichols divorced. Thereafter, Don worked in various towns, usually at machine shops or lumber mills, as he was an excellent mechanic, and usually over winter. Come the thaws, he would be on his way to the mountains. In 1973 Verdina and the children were in White Sulphur Springs, Montana, where she married Lloyd Frisbie, a law enforcement officer. Don was working, as in other years to come, by Jackson Hole, and when he went back to the Spanish Peaks this time, he took his son with him.

He kept Dan too long, violating the terms of his visitation privileges—"kidnapped the boy," in the opinion of some. And when it began to look as if he wouldn't be bringing Dan back for school, Verdina called the sheriff. A local fellow who had grown up knowing Don saw the father and son in the backcountry that fall. This guy was driving along a remote road when he saw a man dart behind some rocks, running away. Curious, he speeded up to cut him off. All at once, he realized that it was Don Nichols. Don was swinging his rifle around to point toward the man before Don, too, recognized an old acquaintance, and stopped, and they talked.

A deputy brought Dan out that year. When Dan was late coming out of the mountains for school another year, the sheriff went in and met Don on a trail. Don gave his word that he'd have Dan out in a week, and he kept it. With the sheriff on that search was Johnny France, a deputy at the time.

FRANCE, NOW FORTY-FOUR, GREW UP AS DON NICHOLS DID near Norris, with foster parents, and was graduated from the same high school in Harrison. The school wall on which photographs of graduating classes are hung holds the two men's portraits a few feet apart. France wrangled at local ranches all through high school, including the Flying D—an immense domain rolling along the Madisons' northern slopes and abutting Beartrap Canyon, Don's favorite route into the Spanish Peaks. For a decade after high school France hit the amateur rodeo circuit, riding saddle broncs of every known disposition, from only mildly rank to certified loco. In 1966 and again in 1967, he was the Montana Rodeo Association's all-around champion cowboy.

France worked the night beat as a city cop while attending Western Montana College in Dillon and earned a reputation for doing extra duty out in the alleys for free—shearing long-haired hippies. After moving back to Ennis and the Madison Valley, he rose through the short ranks of the local law force and was elected sheriff in 1980. As a side business—there's hardly enough crime in this ranching country to support a full-time sheriff—France floated dudes down the Madison River for blue-ribbon trout fishing and a run through Beartrap

Canyon's rapids.

While most of Big Sky lies within Gallatin County, the core of the Nicholses' habitual territory lay in Madison County. Thus Sheriff France became the man chiefly responsible for directing the 1984 manhunt and for explaining its frustrating lack of success or even near-success. At one point early on, he told an interviewer, "In my own way, I'm a mountain man too. It'll take one to catch one. I'll get them." Maybe not soon, he added, but sooner or later.

The Madison County sheriff's office is in Virginia City—an old, ripsnortin', gold boomtown now restored as a summer tourist attraction—whose first sheriff, Henry Plummer, was hanged because he was also head of the local outlaws. When the lawmen from Virginia City went to fetch young Dan Nichols for school those two years, Dan didn't want to leave either the mountains or his father. As he entered his teens, his choices grew more complicated. Supposedly, he once left his boots in camp so that his father would think he was still around, and barefooted it thirty-five miles into town.

At school, Dan got along okay. He had some friends, was a drummer in the school band. He had something of his father's flair for art in that he sketched and painted well. Once he did a mural depicting a woman in a woodland setting with a unicorn. He also had his father's kind of reputation for being quiet, very quiet, and for keeping to himself most of the time. He had one brush with the law, though because he was a juvenile, authorities won't reveal what sort of brush.

Dan found himself stuck in between childhood and adulthood, his mother and his father, town life and a mountain life. During his junior year at school, he lived at a ranch that took in foster children. Then he dropped out and went to be with Don in the high country. But then he walked out of the mountains, sick-and-tired of being so damned lonesome up there, and took a job in town washing dishes. And now the father was the lonely one. Lonely, despondent, and bitter.

"I'm never going to take that boy with me again," Don told his sister, Betty, the last time he stopped in to visit. She never knew when her brother might show up from year to year, but whenever he did, they usually continued their long-standing friendly debate. She would tell him that he was crazy to live the way he did, and Don would argue over and over that if she and her husband, Walter, would just try it up there for two or three days they'd learn to love it. But now it was plain that Dan, having tried it off and on for most of his life, had decided against it.

Or had he? The next thing Betty knew, Dan had once more gone up to join his father, and they were together in the mountains from then on.

The Nichols family, including Don's ex-wife, explained some of this to the lawmen and the press following the initial headlines about Big Sky's sensational kidnap-murder case. The family saw the kidnapping as stemming less from some brutal desire for a woman than from a father's desperate desire to keep his son—the one part of human society that he was not prepared to live without, the one thing he needed from town. And the situation had rapidly gone from bad to worse when Alan Goldstein waved a gun in Dan's direction. "You

"Any coyotes around here lately?" asked Sheriff Johnny France.

mess with a grizzly's cub, and that sow just comes unglued," was Sheriff Onstad's analogy.

POSTERS DESCRIBING THE NICHOLSES AS DANGEROUS AND armed and known to inhabit mountainous areas were posted regularly at trailheads leading into the Madisons next to the usual warnings to be cautious in grizzly country. Interestingly, a Montanan who grew up with Indian friends told me that when he first met Don Nichols he sensed in the man what you would have to call bear medicine, a kind of power that is neither good nor bad so much as just very strong and unpredictable. And not to be cornered, cub or no cub.

The weeks passed. A grizzly killed a young woman close to Kari's age camped alone in the backcountry of Yellowstone Park. Goldstein's brother, Doug, flew out from Virginia, concerned that the costly manhunt would be curtailed for lack of funds.

Bozeman held its annual John Colter run, a footrace commemorating that mountain man's flight for life from a band of Blackfeet near Three Forks.

The more I learned about Don Nichols, the better I understood why those who knew him were so sure that he and Dan had not fled the Madisons for more rugged, remote, or less traveled mountains. The Madisons were where he lived. And if a man had been living by his own laws for so long that he could justify kidnapping a woman, he could probably convince himself that no one would be able to outmaneuver him in terrain that he knew better than anyone else. Could be he was right. Could be the Nicholses were long gone after all. The sheriffs were keeping mum about any new leads.

But I discovered that the Nicholses, or men presumed to be the Nicholses, had been spotted twice in the Madisons since their escape, once by a Forest Service crew. Cabins were broken into and supplies taken as autumn gave way to winter. Books were taken as well, including a biography of Chief Sitting Bull.

Tom Heintz had guided and packed in the Madison Range, operating Medicine Lake Outfitters, for the past twelve years, nine of those in the Spanish Peaks. In all that time he never once laid eyes on Don or Dan Nichols. I read his diary for October 24, 1984. It contained four paragraphs describing the whereabouts of elk tracks and the look of the weather—heavy snow blowing in—and one paragraph in which he comments that he finally met the Nicholses.

Tom talked with them for half an hour. Don put down his gun only once. He fired a number of questions at the guide but finally turned to Dan and said, "He's up here because he likes it," and Tom knew then that he would be alright. Dan asked what had happened to the girl; he thought he'd killed her. When Tom told them that Kari Swenson was alive, he saw Dan's eyes widen in apparent shock. Then Dan looked away. Overall, the two seemed to Tom to be much at home in their mountains, unaware of their notoriety and how widespread the search for them had been.

It was curious, Tom thought, how one of them would begin a sentence and the other would finish it—their thoughts ran so much alike. They looked thin to him, and their clothes were thin. Dan said he wouldn't mind going south. Tom didn't know that Don rarely ever wore more than a thin jacket, even in midwinter, or that he had told others he always felt warm in the mountains. Don complimented Tom on the quality of his camps; he had been looking them over for years. Yeah, Tom said to himself, and he might be looking mine over for a long time to come.

At the rate the snowstorm was covering fresh tracks, Tom couldn't see any reason to make an enemy of this man by racing straight for the sheriff when he left; the Nicholses' trail would be invisible by the time the sheriff got to it. So, for the next three days, Tom was kept busy guiding his hunters who were scattered through the mountains. Then he told the sheriff of his encounter. He said nothing to the press. But one of his hired hands got a little drunk one night and spilled the news that Tom had ridden up alone to talk to two guys whose fire he had seen, and by god they were the Nicholses.

Pretty soon Tom was getting calls all hours of the day and night. Newspeople. People cussing him for not reporting to the sheriff at once. People asking how they could help the mountain men. One person wanted to fly his private plane over and drop them supplies; would Tom guide him?

The next person to see the mountain men was Roland Moore, who is married to sheriff Johnny France's stepsister. He was out breaking ice at a stock tank the morning of December 13 so his cattle could get a drink, and he noticed wisps of smoke. They rose from a hill on his ranch, Cold Springs Ranch, where Johnny France grew up, close to Beartrap Canyon. None of those hills held much snow, though the peaks above were half-buried in the stuff by now. That's why the elk and deer were wintering by the hundreds on his ranch just then.

MOORE HUSTLED DOWN THE ROAD IN HIS TRUCK TO GLASS the slope with binoculars and saw two men. One jumped back into the brush. Moore called Johnny France. Another search party geared up. The plan called for a major invasion—Operation Barnstorm was its code name. But the helicopters for it weren't immediately available. So France, being familiar in his bones with the lay of this ranch, went in alone on a snowmobile, following the footprints of two men again on the move. He abandoned the machine on rocky ground and went on by foot for nearly four miles. He was dressed in a white snow camouflage suit and carried a .223 semiautomatic rifle.

When France passed a huge bunch of mule deer and saw that the Nicholses' footprints crossed the snow on top of some of the deer tracks, he knew it was awfully close now, almost time. He worked along the tracks slow, slow, across the rocks, edged through a cluster of trees, and found Dan and Don cooking venison over a fire in a skillet.

"Any coyotes around here lately?" asked the sheriff. He had his gun pointed at the ground just in front of them. Don Nichols reached for his gun. It was a scene that France had been through in his mind over and over during the nearly five months he had stalked the pair. He knew that Goldstein had pointed a gun at the Nicholses and then hesitated to use it, and he knew exactly what it had cost that man. France dropped his

walkie-talkie on the snow and drew a tight bead on Don and came a hair's breadth from squeezing off his shot.

"Don't do anything stupid. Don't make me kill you," he said.

If we give it up, Don wanted to know, what guarantees do we have? France promised Don and his son a hot meal and warm water in a jail cell—someplace where it wasn't 20° and 30° below zero at night as it was getting to be out here—and told Don to stand away from the bushes and open his coat to show that he had no pistol. As they talked, Don realized who Johnny France was. Don told him that he was just as dumb as he had been as a kid, walking up alone on them like that. He said France looked about the same as he always had. Johnny France said he wished he could say the same for Don, and Don Nichols laughed. France had picked up his walkie-talkie from the snow earlier. Sheriff Onstad, hovering in a helicopter, heard the radio come alive again. France's voice was saying, "I've got a couple of guys down here who need a ride."

They rode to town with Onstad, a minister's son, and got to talking about religion and philosophy. "Their life, as they explained it," Onstad said later, "is in the woods, and it was not a matter of being relieved to be caught or have it over. Their life is to be free to roam those hills. . . ."

That's what an army post commander who had met Daniel Boone remarked of him, that he "cannot live without being in the woods." Of Jim Bridger, people observed that he liked places better than people. But again, what is a Daniel Boone type? A Jim Bridger type? A mountain man is, after all, only a kind of man with his own particular balance between self-reliance and selfishness. Beyond that, he is what the rest of us make of him. My favorite account of the old mountain-man life is a novel *The Big Sky* by A. B. Guthrie, Jr. It is, in the end, a tragedy of men who kill the thing they love.

The media began its own operation Barnstorm. Movie companies brandished checkbooks. Other lawmen were criticizing Johnny France for grandstanding, for going it alone. Finally, a judge slapped a gag order on everyone to hold down the fofurraw.

Kari Swenson, who loved the mountains, recovered as her remarkable vitality asserted itself, and the bloody clots in her lung dissolved. She is back with the Montana ski team and recently worked out with them on the course at Lone Mountain Ranch. She may or may not ever again reach the rare peak of performance she had struggled long and hard to obtain. And she has a long jury trial to sit through.

Alan Goldstein, who loved the mountains and who had moved to Big Sky from the midwest just to be near them, had once requested that his funeral be held beneath a large oak tree in an open space. He was buried at Cloverhill Cemetery in Royal Oak, Michigan, his home state, leaving behind a wife and young daughter.

Don and Dan Nichols, who wanted so much to live unfettered in high places, are in a jail cell, the lowest and least free of all places save the grave, looking out at a square of the big sky through bars, awaiting the judgment of society.

Douglas H. Chadwick *is a wildlife biologist who lives near the Continental Divide in northern Montana.*

The fofurraw ended in capture and jail for the mountain men.

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TRAVEL CALENDAR

March through August 1985

Travelers in the American West have hundreds of exciting opportunities to explore and enjoy our Western heritage—to taste traditional fare, to watch or participate in thrilling competitions and hearty merriment. In our Travel Calendar, which comes to you in every March/April and September/October issue, AMERICAN WEST suggests scores of invigorating and heartwarming occasions for our readers to share. A word of caution: although the information in this calendar is current, dates and details can change without notice. Please check in advance, using the telephone numbers listed for each event.

ILLUSTRATIONS DRAWN FOR AMERICAN WEST BY MARK D. TUCCI

ALASKA

Alaska Division of Tourism
Pouch E
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 468-2010

March

2: 11th Annual Iditarod Trail Race. This challenging 1,049-mile dogsled race commemorates a nonstop 1925 serum run made by dogsled from Anchorage to combat a bad epidemic in Nome. The present run from Anchorage to Nome takes entrants anywhere from twelve to twenty-three days to complete, passing by the ghost town of Iditarod. The contestants must carry supplies for themselves and their sixteen-to-eighteen-dog teams. Many spectators fly to each check point to keep track of the racers' progress. Anchorage, Nome. (907) 376-5155

11–15: Festival of Native Arts. A display of arts and crafts. Highlights are a rollicking dancing-and-singing-of-native-songs contest between villages and the finish of the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest dogsled race. Fairbanks. (907) 474-6609

April

26–27: Native Youth Olympics. Eskimo and Indian youngsters compete in traditional games like the head pull, leg wrestle, toe kick, kneel jump, and seal hop. Anchorage. (907) 265-1275, ext. 214

May

25–27: Ketchikan King Salmon Derby. Fishing enthusiasts try to outdo each other and catch the biggest salmon. Ketchikan. (907) 225-3184

June

Nalukatak Whaling Festival. When and if a whale is caught, celebrations include a blanket toss and Eskimo dances and songs. Barrow. (907) 852-8633

July

4–7: Northwest Native Trade Fair. The Inupiat and other Alaskans gather to trade resources, to dance, feast, and compete in athletic games. Kotzebue. (907) 442-3401

August

24–25: 4th Annual Hugs & Kisses Road Run. Milers who finish this race are rewarded with a warmly dispensed hug and kiss. Skagway. (907) 983-2297

ARIZONA

Arizona Office of Tourism
3507 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(602) 255-3618

March

2–3: Tombstone Territorial Days. Four-man teams of firemen race a horse-drawn firehose cart to top off the old-time fun. Tombstone. (602) 457-2211

April

17–20: 3rd Annual International Mariachi Conference. Professional mariachi musicians come from such unexpected places as Tokyo and Hong Kong to participate in workshops with the world-famous mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán. A replica of the Plaza de Garibaldi in Mexico City is erected, through which mariachi stroll as visitors enjoy crafts booths and refreshments. A mariachi competition, free mariachi mass, and mariachi concert draw enthusiastic listeners and raise funds for the mental health program of the event's sponsor, La Frontera Center, Inc. Tucson. (602) 791-4266

May

25–27: Bill Williams Rendezvous Days. Wear Western gear to events like a Black Powder Shoot, Monte Carlo Night, and an Old West Auction, or get thrown in "jail." Williams. (602) 635-2041

June

21–July 28: Festival of Native American Arts. A Hopi crafts show and an outdoor Indian art market are featured events. Flagstaff. (602) 779-5944

July

4: Firing of the Anvil. At 4:00 AM and on through the morning, instead of shooting a cannon, Taylorites blast an anvil into the air to celebrate the 4th. Taylor. (602) 536-4331

August

2: Mighty Mud Mania. Contestants crawl, jump, and slide through an obstacle course covered with mud pits. Scottsdale. (602) 994-2408

Mid-August: 3rd Annual Bisbee Poetry Festival. Nationally renowned poets gather to recite verse for three evenings. Bisbee. (602) 432-2141

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Dept. of Parks and Tourism
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 371-7777

March

15: 14th Annual Jonquil Festival. On the jonquil-lined hills of old Washington Historic State Park, traditional crafts such as bowie-knife making, broom making, and tole painting are featured. Washington. (501) 983-2684

April

26–27: Southern Regional Hammer and Mountain Dulcimer Weekend. In the Ozarks—where dulcimers have long been manufactured—both the ancient hammer dulcimer and the more modern mountain dulcimer enjoyed great popularity with early settlers. Today the Ozark Folk Center continues the musical heritage of the Ozarks with dulcimer workshops and competitions in the playing of pieces composed before 1940. Soloists and ensembles perform. Mountain View. (501) 269-3851

May

3–5: Toad Suck Daze. A coveted toad-jumping trophy draws crowds to this Arkansas River festival. Shopping-cart races and the like provide challenge for go-getters. Crafts and live music. Conway. (501) 327-5487

July

1–4: Rodeo of the Ozarks. The forty-first year of roping, wrestling, and riding for big money. Events include the Miss Rodeo Arkansas pageant. Springdale. (501) 751-4694

August

9–11: 11th Annual Greers Ferry Lake Festival. Waterskiing, target parachuting on the water, hot air balloon races, and a regular Western rodeo beside a 40,000-acre lake. Heber Springs. (501) 362-2444

5–18: 9th Annual Watermelon Festival. Hope lightens the summer heat with professional wrestling, softball, block dancing, and a variety show. Old rages revive with hula-hoop, ping pong, and seed-spitting contests, while break dancing rings in the new. Hope. (501) 777-3640

CALIFORNIA

California Dept. Of Commerce
Office of Tourism, Room 103
1121 L Street
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 322-2881

March

17: The Slug Fest, sponsored by the *West Sonoma County Paper*, honors the three-inch, black-spotted, Russian River banana slug with slug sprints and a "slug-off" (a slug recipe contest). Guerneville. (707) 887-1362

Through March: Northern California elephant seal tours at the only mainland breeding colony for this marine mammal. Año Nuevo Elephant Seal State Reserve. Pescadero. (415) 879-0227

April

13–14: International Teddy Bear Convention. Toy bears from Europe and Smalltown, U.S.A., meet at the American Victorian Museum's teddy bear affair where they will compete for "best-dressed," "oldest," and other eminent titles. Greeted by a twenty-foot balloon-bear named Aussie, thousands of bear-lovers come to browse or buy bearaphernalia—wardrobes, furniture, teddy cards. Adults and children will be enchanted by the host of Teddys on display, a magic show starring the Great Beardini, roaming clowns, and a book nook where bear stories are read. Nevada City. (916) 265-5804

May

25–26: The Great Monterey Squid Festival. The incredible, edible squid is prepared in dozens of tantalizing ways by chefs from famous restaurants. Monterey. (408) 649-6547

June

5–September 22: Old Globe Theatre Festival. The 50th anniversary of the Old Globe Theatre features works by Shakespeare in repertory as well as other classics and contemporary dramas. San Diego. (619) 239-2255

16–17: Annual Huck Finn Jubilee. Cloggers, mountain men, and Indians mingle along the riverfront while bluegrass and country bands provide a lively background for climbing greased poles, building river rafts, telling tall tales, and painting fences for prizes. Victorville. (714) 783-3661

August

11,18,25: Glenlivet Scotch Pacific Coast Open Polo Tournament. Professional polo players from Argentina, India, and all around the world participate in one of the most important polo events in the United States. Santa Barbara. (805) 684-6683

COLORADO

Colorado Tourism Board
5500 South Syracuse, Suite 267
Englewood, Colorado 80111
(303) 779-1067

March

Feb. 25–March 3: American Ski Classic. The Gerry Ford Celebrity Cup, the Legends of Skiing, Ladies Downhill, and Ladies Giant Slalom races, and a rock concert. Vail. (303) 949-4922

May

5: 2nd Annual The Sky's the Limit Kite Festival and Aerial Extravaganza. Kite flying demonstrations and competitions, stunt flying, balloon rides, and "just for fun" kite flying. Grand Junction. (303) 241-0567

24–27: Mountainfilm. Mountain fans watch films from around the world on mountain sports and scenes. Telluride. (303) 728-3041

Late May to mid-Oct.: Chimney Rock Indian Ruins Tours. Tours run every Wednesday and Friday morning through the ancient Anasazi Indian dwellings. Pagosa Springs. (303) 264-2360

June

29–July 6: Oro City Rebirth of a Miners' Camp. The Yarn Spinners gathering treats listeners to Old West stories, ballads, Irish tales, and poetry as they munch on Slavic, Spanish, Irish, Scandinavian, and German food. Boomtown fun includes medicine shows, hucksters, fiddlers, and singers. Courses in the Victorian crafts of quilting, log-home building, dulcimer making, and beer making are offered, as are lessons in gold panning and sluice boxing. Leadville. (303) 486-0418

July

27–28: Magic and Puppet Festival. Puppeteers, magicians, and trapeze artists enthrall children while face-painters transform little ones into miniature clowns. Snowmass. (303) 923-2000

August

Mid-August: National Little Britches Rodeo Finals. Rodeo championship for wranglers between the ages of eight and eighteen. Colorado Springs. (303) 597-0451

HAWAII

Hawaii Visitors Bureau
2270 Kalahaua Avenue, Suite 801
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
(808) 923-1811

March

10: Hawaiian Song Festival and Song Composing Contest. Participants conjure up songs in the Hawaiian language. Waikiki, Oahu. (808) 521-9815

31: Hawaiian Highland Gathering. Scots flock to Hawaii from as far away as Fiji and New Zealand for this highland fling. Although an area of Hawaii was once known as Hamakua (Scots' Coast), most of the participants in this gathering are out-of-staters. Pipe-band competitions and country dances provide lively fun as clan members play traditional games like the caber toss, the hammer throw, and the shief toss. Scottish dishes are on hand for the hungry. Honolulu, Oahu. (808) 533-1767

April

27: May Day Celebration. Polynesian dancers, a lei-making and quilt-making demonstration. Wailea, Maui. (808) 879-4465

May

19–26: Western Week in Honokaa. A Portuguese bean-soup cook-off starts a week of games, music, a beer garden, rodeo, and rodeo dance. Honokaa, Hawaii. (808) 775-0345

June

28–30: Annual Big Island Bonsai Show. An exhibit of specially grown bonsai trees. Hilo, Hawaii. (808) 935-4719

July

25–27: Kapalua Wine Symposium. Wine tastings, cooking demonstrations, seminars, and talks by noted wine authorities will delight devotees of the grape. Kapalua, Maui. (808) 669-0244

August

Early: Bon Odori Festival. Colorful bon dances and a floating lantern ceremony honor the deceased in this happy Buddhist festival of the souls. Haleiwa, Oahu. (808) 637-4382

IDAHO

Idaho Travel Council
Capitol Building, Room 108
Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2470

April

6: Sawtooth Derby. From an overlook on Galena Pass, down seventeen snowy kilometers to Busterback, skiiers tackle tough and easy-running trails in this cross-country race. Stanley. (208) 774-2217

May

4–5: Renaissance Fair. Wintery clime given way to spring, northern Idaho residents celebrate with two full days of music, dance, and theatre. Food booths offer Mexican and Oriental delicacies while puppeteers entertain and crowds play games with a giant-sized, rubber earthball (a six-foot diameter ball made in the image of the earth). Moscow. (208) 882-1135

July

1–20: Wood River Valley Music Festival. Nationally known quartets play classical and contemporary chamber music. For the younger folk shorter pieces are accompanied by information on music and instruments. Sun Valley, Ketchum. (208) 622-9371

4–7: Salmon River Days. Electrifying action turns heads at a demolition derby. Rubber raft and kayak races keep up the excitement of competition, while mountain men demonstrate musketry skills at black powder shoots and craftsmen work their magic with traditional materials. Salmon. (208) 756-4935

6–7: Porcupine races. Quilled furies are prodded and cajoled into hurrying down the racetrack. Firehose fights, one-legged races, and children's activities keep the family busy before evening fireworks. Council. (208) 253-4201

August

Mid-August: Sailing regattas and water ski tournaments in Idaho's heartland draw spectators and participants from the tri-state region. McCall. (208) 634-7631

IOWA

Director of Visitors and Tourism
State of Iowa
600 E. Government Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
(515) 281-5536

April

26–27: Drakes Relays. Collegiate track teams from across the country. A showcase for Olympic hopefuls. Des Moines. (515) 271-2102

May

16–19: Dubuquefest. Mime, theatre, poetry, visual arts. Folk dance, square dance, and polka in a beer garden to watch or join. Tours of Victorian and Queen Anne mansions. Dubuque. (319) 588-9751

June

15–16: Heritage Days. A skyward view predominates as sky-divers jump, and radio-controlled and life-sized planes do stunts. Scandinavian culinary arts, a parade, and a hangar dance. Eagle Grove. (515) 448-4821

July

19–21: Central Hawkeye Old Time Power and Machinery Show. Gasoline and oil en-

gines as well as gas and steam tractors are the main subjects of this historical event, with the Minneapolis Moline tractor and Lenox gas engine taking center stage. Tractor turtle races (the last one up the hill without stalling wins), corn-grinding, wheat-threshing, and flour-making demonstrations with steam-operated machines. A flea market shows items like antique tools and lamps. Waukee. (515) 383-4681

21–27: RAGBRAI XIII, Festival on Wheels. 7000 hardy bicyclists pedal 500 miles across Iowa, enjoying small-town hospitality each evening. (515) 284-8285

August

14–17: National Sprint Car Championships. Cars, drivers, and spectators from as far away as Japan and Australia thrill to sprint car speed on a ½-mile oval track. Knoxville. (515) 842-5431

24: Ag fest. A European-type market with vegetables, fresh meat, pastries, and flowers. Iowa's largest horse- and livestock-trailer display as well as skid-loader competitions. Cresco. (319) 547-3434

KANSAS

Kansas Dept. of Economic Development
Travel and Tourism Division
503 Kansas, 6th floor
Topeka, Kansas 66603
(913) 296-2009

March

8: Fort Leavenworth International Fashion Festival. Foreign students model the ethnic dress from over forty different countries. Fort Leavenworth. (913) 682-9283

April

Late: 11th Annual Mirrorkhane. Time trials for sports cars and small race cars. Salina. (913) 827-9301

May

3–5: 19th Annual Kansas Barbed Wire Collectors Association Swap and Sell. Barbed-wire splicing world championship and a barbed-wire auction. La Crosse. (913) 222-2571

June

5–8: 5th Annual Longhorn Steer Drive. Participants relive pioneer days as they dress in the Western fashion of the 1870s and 1880s for this four-day cattle drive. Dodge City. (316) 227-8188

July

26–28: International Indian Powwow. American Indians and foreign visitors trade, perform traditional dances, and display crafts. Wichita. (316) 262-5221

31–August 3: Cowtown Days Celebration. A return to frontier times is the theme of this gathering. A gospel night sing, a pie contest, and a children's olympics and rodeo begin the good times. Pioneer amusements include an old fiddlers contest, turtle races, a skillet throw, a nail-driving contest, and a cow-chip throw. An old-fashioned dress contest, a church ice-cream social, a quilt contest, and a rodeo revive the spirit of the Old West. Baxter Springs. (316) 856-3131

August

25: Kansas State Fiddling and Picking Championships. Toes will tap during this fiddle, guitar, banjo, mandolin, and folk-singing jamboree. Lawrence. (913) 843-4411

LOUISIANA

Office of Tourism
P.O. Box 44291
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9983
(504) 925-3861

March

15–17: 14th Annual Audubon Pilgrimage. Tours of antebellum homes in the area in which Audubon once lived and painted. St. Francisville. (504) 635-6330

April

27: 5th Annual Louisiana Lignite. An arts and crafts and games festival, centered around lignite (soft, brown coal), a local resource. Coushatta. (318) 932-4984

30–May 12: Contraband Days. Legend has it that nineteenth-century privateer Jean Lafitte often fled hurricanes and enemy ships by hiding in the bayous, where he and his men buried stolen goods, jewels, and coins. Recalling those renegade times, "buccaneers" sail across Lake Charles, capture the mayor, and make him walk the plank. Contraband events include soccer, golf, and tennis tournaments, bath tub, sailboat, and speedboat races, a diaper derby, and Cajun food and music. Lake Charles. (318) 436-5508

June

Mid–June: Cameron Parish Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo. Competitors reel in fish for prizes and trophies. Mamou. (318) 442-5883

July

4–6, 11–13, 18–20: Louisiana Legend Heritage Festival. Northern Louisiana history comes to the stage in an original outdoor drama. Monroe. (318) 387-5691

14: Bastille Day. Celebrate France's independence day with culinary treats from New Orleans's best restaurants, a Grand Prix bicycle race, and a waiter's race. New Orleans. (504) 899-6420

August

14–18: Delcambre Shrimp Festival. A "fais do-do" street dance, parade of shrimp boats down the canals, and the blessing of the shrimp fleet. Delcambre. (318) 685-2653

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Office of Tourism
240 Bremer Bldg., 419 N. Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(612) 297-3897 or (800) 328-1461

April

26: International Astronomy Day. The public is invited to observe celestial bodies through telescopes of various sizes at the Paulucci Space Theatre. Planetarium shows are also scheduled. Hibbing. (218) 262-6718

Late: Croatian Smorgasbord. Tamburitza tunes and costumes of this eastern European culture accompany a Croatian feast with foods such as lamb, *sarma* (cabbage rolls), and *potica* (a black-walnut bread). South St. Paul. (612) 451-1453

June

22–23: Crown Auto Funny Car Championships. Nitro-burning dragsters with up to 2500-horsepower engines scream down a quarter-mile track, reaching up to 260 mph in this major hot-rod event. Brainerd. (612) 475-1500

August

11: 11th Annual International Rolle Bolle Tournament. In an old Belgian game described as a cross between lawn bowling and croquet, all ages roll their bolles (small, hard rubber tires with beveled edges). Marshall. (507) 532-4484

16–18: NI MI WIN '85, an Ojibway Nation Celebration. Drawing participants and visitors from all over the country, this celebration combines entertainment and education. In addition to tribal dancing, drumming, and competitions of athletic skills (like cross-country footraces and archery), the powwow brings in authors, artists, and spiritual leaders of the Ojibway nation to speak on traditions, history, or contemporary issues. Contemporary Indian art exhibit, craft demonstrations (such as wood carving and pipestone carving), and Indian foods. Duluth. (218) 628-3881

18: North American Clydesdale Championships. About 150 magnificent draft horses parade their talents in harness competitions. Rochester. (507) 289-3555

MISSOURI

Missouri Division of Tourism
P.O. Box 1055
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
(314) 751-4133

April

All month: Festival of Oriental Opera. The Lyric Opera performs Puccini's *Turandot* and Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado*. Programs and exhibits throughout the city celebrate April in the Orient. Kansas City. (816) 471-4933

May

2–5: 6th Annual Story Telling Festival. Regional and nationally known storytellers captivate and enlighten. Folk tales and modern narratives—from river history to American Indian legend—told with dramatic effects help create a vision of the heritage of this country's various cultures. All free under the Gateway Arch. St. Louis (314) 553-5961

4–19: Ozark Mountain Craft Festival. Demonstrations include: shearing, spinning, dyeing, weaving ("sheep to shawl"); rail splitting, boat building, fiddle making; grapevine- and willow-furniture making; and metal sculpturing. Branson. (417) 338-8188

June

28–30 and July 4: The Veiled Prophet Fair. Known as one of the biggest "birthday parties" in the country, the V.P. Fair goes gung ho for music, music, music of all kinds. Sports competitions (in tennis, golf, horsemanship, motorcycling, or highland games) jam the agenda, while jugglers, mimes, and puppeteers entertain the crowds. Food booths offer tantalizing dishes from dozens of countries, and spectacular fireworks make up the festival finale. St. Louis. (314) 421-1023

July

7: No-boat boat races. Lake Pomme de Terre endures an annual race of any floating vehicle, small or large, that is not a boat. Prizes are given for "best-costumed crew," "most original construction material" (no-boats may be made from bath tubs or soda-pop cans), and "the least likely to float" (judged prior to the race, of course). Hermitage. (417) 745-6868

31–August 3: J-Bar-H Rodeo. PRCA-sanctioned, this rodeo brings in top cowboys and cowgirls in the West for breathtaking action. Camdenton. (417) 334-2420

MONTANA

Montana Travel Promotion Division
Department of Commerce
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620
(800) 548-3390 or (406) 444-2654

March

21–23: C. M. Russell Auction of Western Art. Works by the nation's finest western artists. Great Falls. (406) 761-6453

April

12–14: Oly Days Spring Carnival. Skiers don bathing suits and shorts for the fun races, as do spectators at the foot of the slopes. Due to the high altitude, the rays permit sunbathing without melting the base snow. Serious slalom and giant slalom races are interspersed with a beer-chugging race and an inner-tube race over two jumps. A snow-golf tournament, live music, and an outdoor heated pool add to the fun. Big Sky. (406) 995-4211 or (800) 548-4486

May

17–19: Miles City Jaycees Bucking Horse Sale. Wild horses are bucked out and sold. Bareback, saddle bronc, ladies bareback, and wild-horse racing events. Miles City. (406) 232-4030

June

Mid–June: Libby Logger Days. Would-be Paul Bunyans can try their hand in the Montana lumberjack championships, as well as river-raft races, sawing contests, and a carnival. Libby. (406) 293-3832

17–22: College National Finals Rodeo. The nation's top collegiate cowboys and cowgirls compete in all rodeo events. Bozeman. (406) 587-2637

July

Mid–July: Yellowstone Rendezvous. Arts festival with displays and performing artists. West Yellowstone. (406) 646-7701

August

21–27: Crow Fair. Parades, games, food, and a nightly rodeo. Crow Agency. (406) 638-2228

NEBRASKA

Nebraska Division of Travel and Tourism
Department of Economic Development
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
(800) 742-7595 or (800) 228-4307

May

25–26: Brownville Spring Festival. A flea market and a muzzle-loader's contest, plus historic museums to investigate. Brownville. (402) 825-6001

June

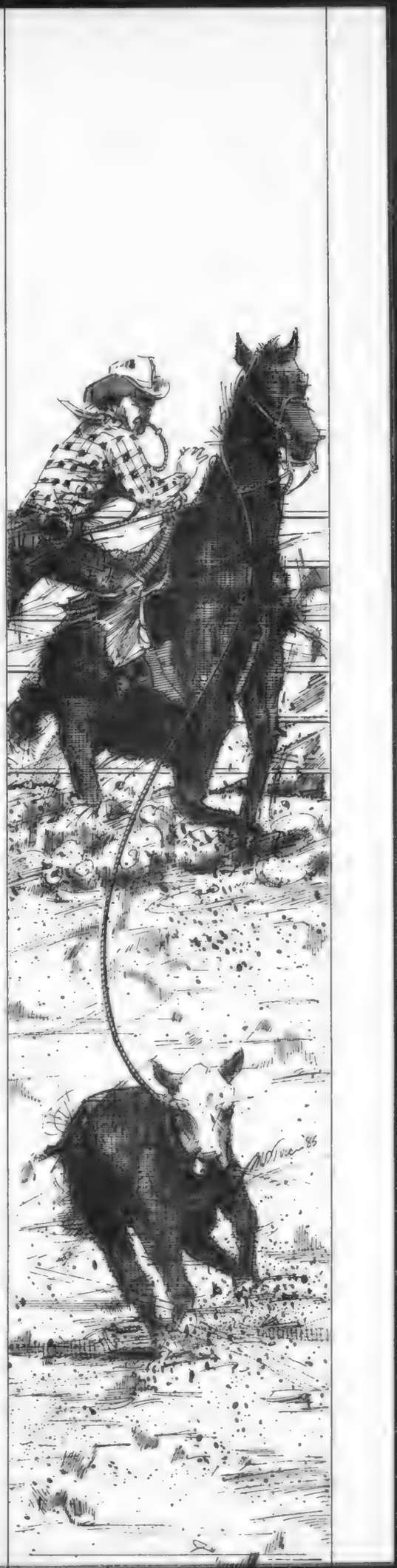
1–2: Nebraska Pinto Horse Show. Barrel races, trail riding, Western and English saddle in various halter classes. Fremont. (402) 721-4068

9: Tri-State Oldtime Cowboys Picnic. Potluck dinner for rodeo veterans, cowboys, and their families. Gordon. (308) 282-0887

June–August: Frank House. Tours through this unique mansion built in 1889 and wired for electricity ten years after Edison invented the light bulb. Kearney. (308) 234-8284

July

18–19: Oregon Trail Days. Gering citizens celebrate the times of over a century ago with games and events like a pie-eating contest and a watermelon-eating contest. A five-mile run lets contestants work off all that food, while a country-western music concert and a Mexi-



can square dance provide entertainment. A penny scramble, barbeque, and parade round out the pioneer festivities. Gering. (308) 436-7127

August

2: John G. Neihardt Day: A series of speakers honor Nebraska's poet laureate. Bancroft. (402) 648-3388

8–11: National Country Western Music Festival. Cash prizes and trophies for the best bands. Ainsworth. (402) 387-2740

NEVADA

Nevada Commission on Tourism
State Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-3636

April

16–21: Henderson Industrial Days. A parade, rodeo, and an amateur talent contest head the roster of events. Henderson. (702) 565-8951

May

2–5: Mint 400. Dubbed the world's largest, richest, and toughest off-road desert race, the Mint 400 sends trucks, buggies, and sedans bumping and grinding four times over a 100-mile course for $300,000 in prizes. Las Vegas. (702) 385-7440

18–19: Amateur Golf Tournament. A full field of players—including top amateurs from the Rocky Mountain region—take on this 36-hole tourney. Ely. (702) 289-4095

June

Early: 5th Annual Armadillo Alympics and Races. The Texas Armadillo Association provides the armored racers (who are later returned to the wilds of Texas) for three days of athletic trials. Las Vegas. (800) 634-3414

July

6–7: The National Basque Festival. Townspeople and Basques from all over the country come to celebrate Basque heritage with plenty of torrizzos, sheepherders' bread, and beer. Basque dancers step lightly to folk music, and visitors participate in the popular sport of handball. Elko. (702) 738-7135

August

Late: State and World Gold Panning Championships. Men, women, and children try their hand in speed, dry, and skill panning competitions. Sparks. (702) 358-4771

NEW MEXICO

Tourism and Travel Division
New Mexico Economic Development
Bataan Memorial Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
(505) 827-6230

April

21: Tour of the Rio Grande. Bicyclers peddle, a thousand strong, along a 100-mile stretch of river land. Albuquerque. (505) 897-3217

April through June: Taos Spring Arts Celebration. Film festival; a week of country, rock, and reggae music; Indian market and crafts fair; historical tours; tours of artists' homes and many art exhibitions. Taos. (505) 758-0516

May

4-5: El Rancho de las Golondrinas Spring Festival. Early Spanish-colonial days return with *danzas, corridos* (ballads), and *Moros y Cristianos*—a dramatic play performed outdoors on horseback. Colonial rancho skills (blacksmithing, milling, etc.) are also demonstrated. Santa Fe. (505) 471-2261

30–June 2: Four Corners Hot Air Balloon Rally. Sunrise ascensions pepper the skies with 150 to 200 colorful hot-air balloons, which then race across Farmington Lake. Spectators may find a chance to ride up in the gondolas. Farmington. (505) 326-7602

June

30–July 11: Standard-Class National Soaring Championship. High performance sail planes from many countries soar for big money. Hobbs. (505) 392-4510

August

15: Bat Flight Breakfast. An annual outdoor breakfast held in predawn light provides a spectacular view of thousands of Mexican freetail bats returning to their daytime roost. Over several hours, clusters of these winged mammals dive-bomb into the cavern opening, their movement through the air producing an eerie sound. During the breakfast a park ranger talks about the habits of these bats, and a stunning sunrise often tops off the spectacle. Carlsbad Caverns (505) 785-2232

17–September 7: Chamber music and jazz. Sixteen concerts by top musicians. Meet the artists at brunch. Angel Fire. (505) 377-6353 or (800) 545-4022

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Dept. of Tourism
Liberty Memorial Bldg.
Capitol Grounds
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505
(800) 437-2077 or (701) 224-2525

March

7–17: North Dakota Winter Show. An indoor agricultural fair with crop, livestock, and home displays. The last word in combines, hay stackers, bobcats, with more than 250 exhibitors. Valley City. (701) 845-1401

April

27–28: Midwest International Fiddle Fest. All ages have a chance to win, and die-hard fiddling fans get a bonanza concert. Evening brings old-time dancing of waltzes, polkas, and jigs. Jamestown. (701) 252-8088

June

23–29: Twirling and Drumming. At the International Music Camp a work-study week focuses on baton twirling and drum majoring. At the week's end top students display their talents in the twirling of both standard and flaming batons. Another session in July features bagpipes and drums, with a performance by fifty to sixty kilted pipers and drummers marching and playing in small groups and en masse. Bottineau. (701) 228-2277, ext. 46

30–July 6: Fort Union Trading Post Rendezvous. In a recreation of a fur-trade-era rendezvous, participants dress and live in the mode of the early 1800s. Williston. (701) 572-9083

July

4–7: Rough Rider Days. A PRCA rodeo, tractor pull, horse pull, demolition derby, parade, water show and fireworks. Dickinson. (701) 225-4988.

19–27: North Dakota State Fair. Cattle and horse shows, farm machinery, and a battle of the bands (country western and rock and roll). Minot. (701) 852-3113

August

Early: 9th Annual Devil's Lake Fishing Tournament. Eighty two-man teams challenge last year's champs in walleye and northern fishing. A fish fry follows. Devil's Lake. (701) 662-4903

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Tourism
Marketing Services Division
500 Will Rogers Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
(405) 521-2406

April

20–21: 143rd Annual Founding of Fort Washita Celebration. An Indian dance ceremony, fiddlers contest, military drill, and cannon demonstration honor this historic fort. Durant. (405) 924-6502

May

2–3: International Land and Pasture Judging Contest. One thousand youngsters from over thirty-five states and several foreign countries come to learn about the land. Children, divided into teams, compete to identify and categorize the soil based on texture, type, and the slope of the land. They also examine different grasses. Sponsored in part by the Federal Land Bank, the contest encourages children to understand and appreciate the land. Oklahoma City. (405) 278-8900

14–20: Mayfest. A display of oil paintings, watercolors, sculpture, and pottery selected

by a national panel. Performing artists, games, food. Tulsa. (918) 584-3333, ext. 19

July

3–6: Powderhorn Park Bluegrass Festival. Down-home music from regional and national bands. Spavinaw. (918) 253-8471
13: Oklahoma Grand Prix. Separate running, biking, and swimming races for the athletically inclined. Oklahoma City. (405) 521-2973
20: 10th Annual Sandcastle Contest. Sand architects build their creations along the banks of the Arkansas River. Tulsa. (918) 585-1201

August

31: Sucker Day. A carnival and street fair, so named to remind townsfolk of the time they were suckered by a salesman selling tickets to a nonexistent circus. Wetumka. (405) 452-3237

OREGON

Economic Development Department
Tourism Division
595 Cottage Street, N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
(800) 547-7842 or (800) 233-3306

February

19–October 26: Oregon Shakespearean Festival. Special golden anniversary events include an April 22 presentation of *Twelfth Night* by members of the 1935 company, and a Big Three Days party with birthday cake, champagne, and fireworks accompanying the July 2, 3, and 4 performances. *King Lear, The Merchant of Venice, All's Well That Ends Well,* and *The Life and Death of King John* are the Shakespearean plays being performed, along with other works. Ashland. (503) 482-2111

April

6: Easter Bonnet and Crazy Hat Parade. Creative headgear ranges from the elegant to the absurd. Winston. (503) 672-9731

May

29–June 2: Strawberry Festival. Two parades, a fair, and a whopping 6,000-pound strawberry shortcake are in honor of the harvest. Lebanon. (503) 258-7164

June

16–30: Oregon Bach Festival. Internationally renowned musicians perform the *St. Matthew* and the *St. John* passions, the B Minor Mass, and the *Brandenburg* concertos, among other works. Eugene. (503) 686-5666
21–26: Rockhound Powwow. Rock lovers look for agates and other stones, then trade their finds and swap stories. Prineville. (503) 447-6304

August

3–4: Mount Hood Festival of Jazz. An outdoor musical bash with nationally acclaimed jazz artists. Gresham. (503) 665-1131
Mid–August: Astoria Regatta. A boating festival on the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean. Astoria. (503) 325-6311

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Division of Tourism
Box 1000
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
(800) 843-1930

March

30–31: South Dakota Youth Wrestling Tournament. Eight-to-sixteen-year-olds wrestle for the chance to go on to the national meet. Corn Palace. Mitchell. (605) 996-7311

April

12–14: Home and Industry Show. The Homebuilders' Association and merchants of the region show off their wares. Rapid City. (605) 348-7800

May

25–26: Tri-state Dog Show. A ten-ring canine circus, this event brings together all breeds of dogs from three kennel clubs in Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. German shepherds, retrievers, and basset hounds are judged in obedience and utility categories as well as in grooming, handling, appearance. Vermillion. (605) 624-5571

June

15–16: Juried, hand-worked arts and crafts in materials from alabaster to pewter are on display and for sale. Foods, music, and children's theatre. Aberdeen. (605) 622-2530

July

3: 3rd Annual Toilet Bowl Race. Water closets on wheels are propelled by elbow grease and plungers. A block party follows. Centerville. (605) 563-2243
First week: Black Hills Open Tennis Tournament. Pros and top amateurs from the Rocky Mountain region. All categories. Rapid City. (605) 394-4167

August

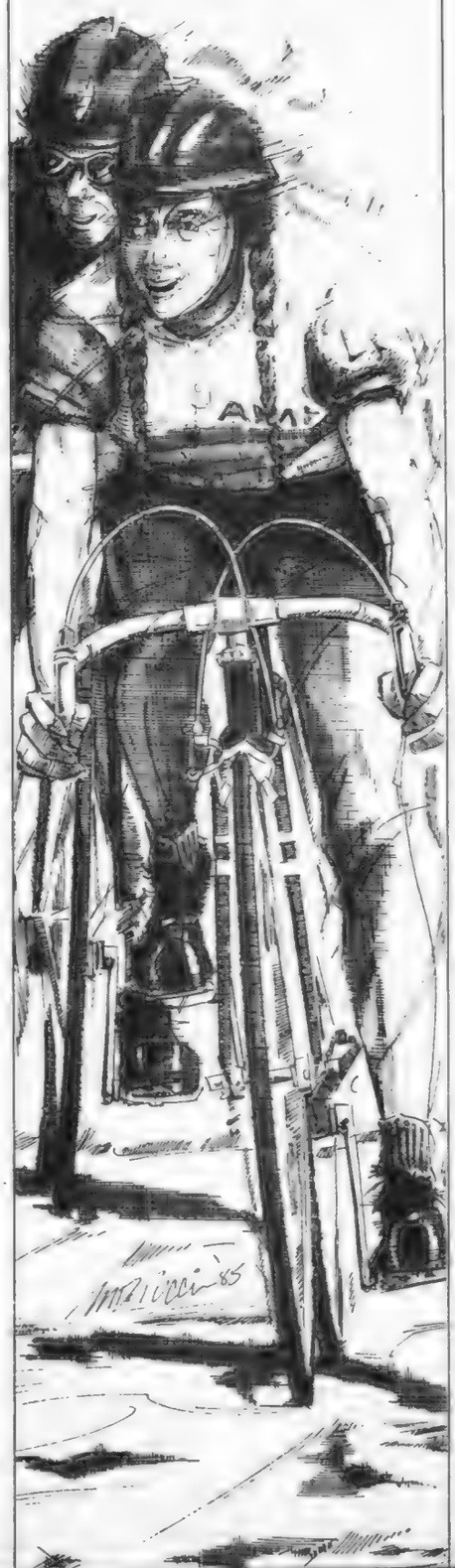
23–25: Rosebud Sioux Fair and Powwow. Wild-horse racing, rodeo, carnival, and parade. Dancing contests for young and old. Rosebud. (605) 747-2381

TEXAS

Travel & Information Division
State Dept. of Highways
11th & Brazos
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 475-8044

March

3: Kite-flying Contest. Hundreds of original, homemade kites—delta wings, eddy bows,



and odd-shaped contraptions soar the skies in this colorful, heartwarming event. Austin. (512) 472-5947

9–10, 16–17: River Oaks Azalea Trail. Six Victorian homes and their blossom-laden gardens are open for tours. Houston. (713) 523-2483

May

Late May through August: "The Lone Star." The history of Texas and its struggle for independence is dramatized in an amphitheatre under the stars. Also "Hello Dolly." Galveston. (409) 737-3442

July

2–5: 54th Annual Texas Cowboy Reunion. Old-timers and working cowboys gather for rodeo, chuckwagon, round- and square-dance fun. A western art show and sale features 19th and early 20th-century bronzes and oils. Stamford. (915) 773-2411

August

1–4: 14th Annual Texas Folklife Festival. Demonstrations and lessons in skills such as spinning lariats, caning chairs, and making hoecakes. Hoedowns are not forgotten. Gospel music. Exotic foods. San Antonio. (512) 226-7651

10–11: Black Powder Shoot and Wild Game Cook-off. Target shooting with muzzle-loading firearms, cook-offs, and swimming in the river. Llano. (915) 247-5354

16–17: Texas Ranch Roundup. "Legend-laden" ranches grapple for bragging rights in roping and riding skills. A ranch first-lady contest recognizes the woman with the best knowledge of ranch life, from branding and breeding techniques to domestic operations. Ranch hands team up to milk wild cows, pen calves, and race wild horses as well as for ranch-cooking in three categories—meat, baked goods, and vegetables. Wichita Falls. (214) 698-0300

UTAH

Utah Travel Council
Council Hall/Capitol Hill
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 533-5681

March

30–April 7: Spring Carnival. Lift operators sport outlandish costumes for a week of ski races, fireworks, and a torchlight parade. Brian Head. (801) 586-7101

April

13: Color Country Endurance Ride. A fifty-mile horseback ride through scenic sand dunes and cactus. Hurricane. (801) 635-4627

May

15–18: Black and White Days. One of the oldest livestock shows in the country, featuring Holstein cows. (801) 752-2161

25–27: Friendship Cruise. Boaters venture down the Green River and enjoy an on-shore barbecue. Green River. (801) 637-2788

July

11–13: 51st Annual Ute Stampede. Parades, rodeo, carnival, and chuckwagon breakfast. Nephi. (801) 623-0643

11–14, 19–20, 22–24: Western Film Festival and Pioneer Days Rodeo and Celebration. Old Western movies and a previously unreleased Western will be shown at the first national Western Film Festival, July 11–14, where movie stars will make personal appearances. A Western pack and saddle show coincides with the film festival. Townsfolk then put on their own Western show with five days of rodeo, parades, country music concerts, and a street festival. Ogden. (801) 399-8288

August

31: Grand Circle Marathon. A twenty-six-mile run from Blanding to Bluff. (801) 678-2244

WASHINGTON

Washington Dept. of Commerce and
Economic Development/Tourism Division
101 General Administration
Olympia, Washington 98504
(800) 541-9274 or (800) 562-4570

March

9: N.W. Belly Dance Festival. Belly dancers come from all over the Northwest to compete and exhibit their skill. Vancouver. (206) 573-2170

May

11–12: MAI Fest. This unique Bavarian-theme town celebrates spring with maypole dances, handbell choirs, food, music, and melodramas. Leavenworth. (509) 548-7914

June

14–16: Washington State High School Rodeo Finals. High-school age cowpokes ride 'em and rope 'em. Yakima. (509) 966-9192

20–23: Square Dance Festival. A statewide hoedown of square, round, and contra dances, clogging workshops, and skits. Kennewick. (509) 735-8486

29–30: Model A Car Show and Swap Meet. Classic automotive beauties on display. Puyallup. (206) 927-4255

July

Early July: Heritage Festival. People whose forefathers came from different countries around the world gather to share their cultural heritages. Dressed in colorful traditional costumes, Swedish, Russian, South American, and other ethnic groups perform native dances to live music. Chinese, Japanese, and Taiwanese are just a few of the different types of food available. Demonstrations of how to make items like quilts, lace, and cane chairs are also given. Redmond. (206) 344-4258

20–21: International Air Fair. Loud, fast, and exciting, stunt-plane antics like wing walking and other daring aerial feats thrill spectators. Everett. (206) 355-2266

WYOMING

Wyoming Travel Commission
I-25 and College Drive
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
(800) 443-2784 or (307) 777-7777

March

29–30: Extension Yard and Garden Days. Horticultural displays provide general information, and consultants (including an entomologist and a plant pathologist from the University of Wyoming) answer specific questions about landscaping, lawns, flowers, and vegetables suited to northeast Wyoming. Gillette. (307) 682-7281

April

12–14: World Championship Snow-King-Hill Climb. Hundreds of snow machines try to be first to surmount the mean Snow King Hill. Jackson. (307) 733-3316

June

15: Ride and Tie Race. Two-man teams take turns running and riding, saddling and unsaddling, over a five-mile course. Firemen's auction and beef barbecue. Shoshoni. (307) 876-2579

25: Chile Cook-off. In the interest of local charities Wyoming chile-lovers come out of the woodwork, cooking up enough chile to feed the whole town. Prizes are given not only for the best chile but also for the best-decorated cooking booth, inspiring contestants to go to great lengths in construction and costumes. Live music, clowns, horseshoes. Evanston. (307) 789-4222

29: 4th Annual Plains Indian Powwow. Singers and dancers from tribes of the Western United States and Canada compete throughout the day's events. Cody. (307) 587-4771

July

13–14: Pony Express Race, wild-cow milking, cow-cutting contest, and pack-horse race. Dubois. (307) 455-2430

Mid–July: Community Fest. Barbershoppers croon while crowds look over antique cars and arts and crafts displays. Road race, melodrama, living history displays. Wheatland. (307) 322-2322

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Information on _____
City/Activity

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Santa Fe, NM 87501

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Big Bend National Park

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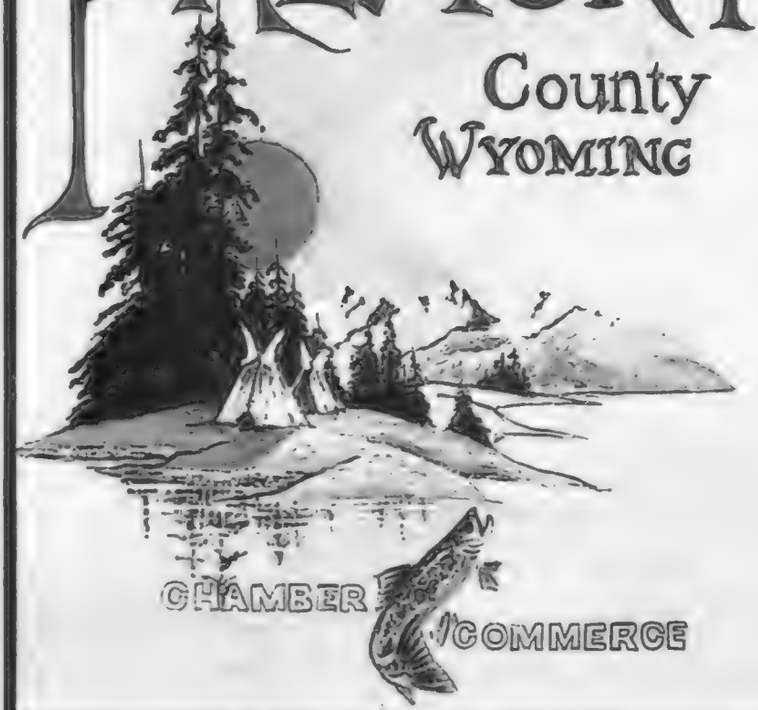
FREMONT County WYOMING



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Include information on:
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____Fishing/hunting
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____Historic Sites/museums
____Tour information
____Indian events
____Special events (rodeos, festivals, etc.)
____Winter activities

Fremont County Chamber of Commerce,
Box 469, Riverton, WY 82501

Produced in cooperation with the Wyoming Travel Commission

DENVER'S NEW MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART

Cattleman opens his collection to the public

by Donald D. Keyes

All reproductions are courtesy of the Museum of Western Art, Denver. All photographs are by James O. Milmoe.

Ernest Blumenschein (1874–1960), *Adobe Village Winter*, 1929, oil on canvas, 34" × 50"

Blumenschein was a leading member of the Taos Society of Artists. These painters were drawn to the Pueblo Indians' "primitive town and the Sangre de Cristo mountains," which they found so magnificent. Of this painting, winner of the Logan Prize at Grand Central Art Galleries in New York, Blumenschein wrote:

> *I was strongly moved by the effect of the brilliant low light on the adobe walls, the elegant tones of the mountains and the superb modeling of the deep snow. I cannot describe my powerful impressions of the beauty of the color, the exotic charm of the place, the simple long lines in the buildings and rhythmic construction of the mountains.*

SECOND-GENERATION CATTLEMAN BILL FOXLEY DEEPLY appreciates the frontier spirit in Western art and admires its expression of self-reliance, optimism, and freedom. These values have guided the purchases of Western art that he and his wife, Sandra, have made over the past ten years. In December 1983 their remarkable collection became available to the public in Denver's new Museum of Western Art.

Every manner conceivable, from unexpected discoveries in dusty antique shops to outbidding the rest of the art world at public auction, has been used to assemble this collection that has required tireless effort and imaginative sleuthing, not to mention the budget-busting cost. Their first purchase, Charles M. Russell's watercolor *Wolves Attacking Cattle in a Blizzard*, was made about a decade ago. Since then important works of Western art have been aggressively sought out and acquired for this collection that now forms the heart of the new museum.

The most famous painting in the collection is probably Frederic Remington's *Downing the Nigh Leader*. Its purchase in 1978 broke the million-dollar barrier for Western art, and the effect on the art market was nearly as dramatic as the painting itself. But money alone was not enough to capture this prize. The owner in New York City had been rejecting ardent suitors for more than thirty years, but, with the help of the Bartfield Galleries and earnest appeals, the acquisition was made, thus establishing the seriousness of the collection.

Now numbering over 125 paintings, watercolors, drawings, sculptures, and letters, the collection demonstrates that art of the American West can be of the highest quality. Many of the works in the collection are also historically important, and in the case of major artists, such as Charles Russell, William Leigh, and Maynard Dixon, early and late examples of their work help us to understand their artistic development. In the case of Russell, there are also sculptures and his hilarious illustrated letters in which he astutely commented on the changes taking place in the West.

ON EXHIBIT ARE DRAMATIC STUDIES OF THE BEAUTIES of the prairies and mountains, a strong selection of cowboys roping and riding, and paintings by the early explorer-artists. The twentieth-century segment of the collection ranges from the colorful Taos School to the spiritual paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe, and even includes a drip painting by abstractionist Jackson Pollock, a Wyoming native son. Also unusual for a museum of Western art are the 1930s farm scenes by Iowan Grant Wood and Missouri painter Thomas Hart Benton. Little-known but good painters such as Harold Bryant stand alongside the giants, giving us a remarkable survey of Western art, and indeed of American art.

The museum's historic building is nearly as interesting as the collection inside. In 1880, the same year electricity came to Denver's nearly 36,000 population, Brinker Collegiate Institute opened as the first coeducational college west of the Mississippi River. After years as a hotel, gambling casino and bordello, and fashionable restaurant, this Victorian building has been returned to its original elegant form and stands today as one of Denver's few remaining structures from the Queen City's glorious past.

The museum's exhibition floors divide the collection into three overlapping categories: Before the White Man, Western Expansion, and The Old West is Dead. In addition there is an extensive bookstore on the ground floor, where one can also see the infamous tunnel from the Brown Palace Hotel across Tremont Street, through which guests could slip unnoticed into the casino and its upstairs bordello. The entire setting for this remarkably rich collection of art preserves the flavor of the Old West while recognizing the developments in modern art and the New West. The museum treats the viewer to an unusually broad survey of Western art, one that is occasionally augmented by important travelling exhibitions. The building and the collection represent a major contribution to the region's surging prominence, not only in the West but in the entire country.

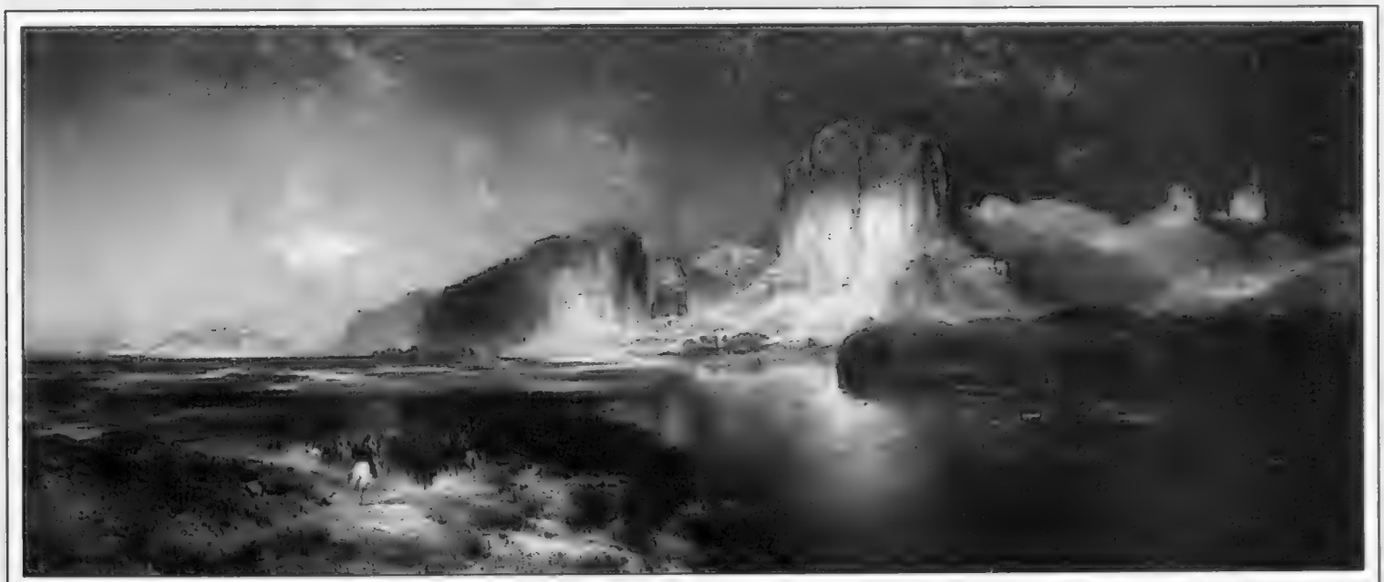
Donald D. Keyes *is Curator of Paintings at the Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia.*

Thomas Moran (1837–1926), *Green River, Wyoming*, 1879, oil on canvas, 25″ × 62¼″

Moran's large paintings of the first National Park, Yellowstone, founded in 1872, brought him instant success. From watercolors made on the spot he painted the oils of the West's natural wonders that have so much in common with William Henry Jackson's contemporary photographs. Moran's colors give his paintings a shimmering, magical quality that seems almost unreal to anyone who has not seen the landscape for himself.

Henry Farny (1847–1916), *The Nomads*, 1902, oil on canvas, 22″ × 40″

At the same time that Remington and Russell were recording the gusto of Western life, the Cincinnatian Henry Farny was working in a more moody, quiet style that caught the spirit of Indian life between its earlier freedom and its modern restrictions. In this painting the Sioux Indians, whom he had known since 1881, are bundled against the early spring cold that the painter intensifies by juxtaposing grey and green tones in a horizontal composition. Farny wrote of this painting: "Personally it pleases me—as one of the most sincere things I have perpetuated in this vale of tears."



Frederic Remington (1861–1909), *Downing the Nigh Leader*, 1904, oil on canvas, 30″ × 50″

This is probably the most famous painting in the museum's collection. As he did for nearly all his major purchases, Mr. Foxley consulted experts in the field, in this case longtime Western art writer Harold McCracken, himself something of a colorful character of the Old West. McCracken wrote Foxley that this

> *is the finest of our documentary art of the early days of the American West. In its artistic quality as well as a realistic portrayal of a dramatic incident in the history of that important era in American history there is no superior example. . . .*

This painting, done late in Remington's career, demonstrates his sophisticated combination of Impressionist light and color with precisely recorded details. The result is a dramatic and compact composition that captures the excitement of the frontier spirit.

Maynard Dixon (1875–1946), *What an Indian Thinks*, 1915, oil on canvas, 40″ × 50″

Californian Dixon felt that the West was being "finished by Henry Ford, the movies, dude ranches, and show business." The rich purples and yellows that Dixon used to express his feelings about the West were very different from the romantic realism of earlier painters. Dixon said this Blackfoot Indian represents

> *a sage, calm Indian who stands against his own background of mountains, from which he draws his health, wealth, religion and pattern of living. While we get panic-stricken over "the Market" the Indian puffs his pipe and looks at the sky. The West is big, slow, grand country, with a style all its own. We scurry around like nervous ants and scarcely take time to let it seep into our souls.*

Charles M. Russell (1864–1926), *On the Prod*, 1918, watercolor and gouache on paper, 12″ × 22″

Russell was one of the first artists to settle in the West, in Great Falls, Montana. This self-taught artist captured the excitement of Western life and particularly the cowboy. Strong brushwork and bold colors typify his oils and watercolors that are also accurate records of the rapidly disappearing life of the Old West. His charismatic cowboys live in the open, free country that he loved, and his paintings had and still have great appeal as illustrations of this bygone era of folk heroes like Charlie Goodnight.

Grant Wood (1891–1942), *Spring Landscape*, 1932, oil on masonite, 18¼″ × 22″

In the 1930s a group of painters called the Regionalists started to paint the American heartland in which, as Wood said, they discovered "that in the very commonplace, in my native surroundings, were decorative adventures and that my only difficulty had been in taking them too much for granted." In this Iowa scene the fertile field undulates before us, ready for the farmer's seeds.

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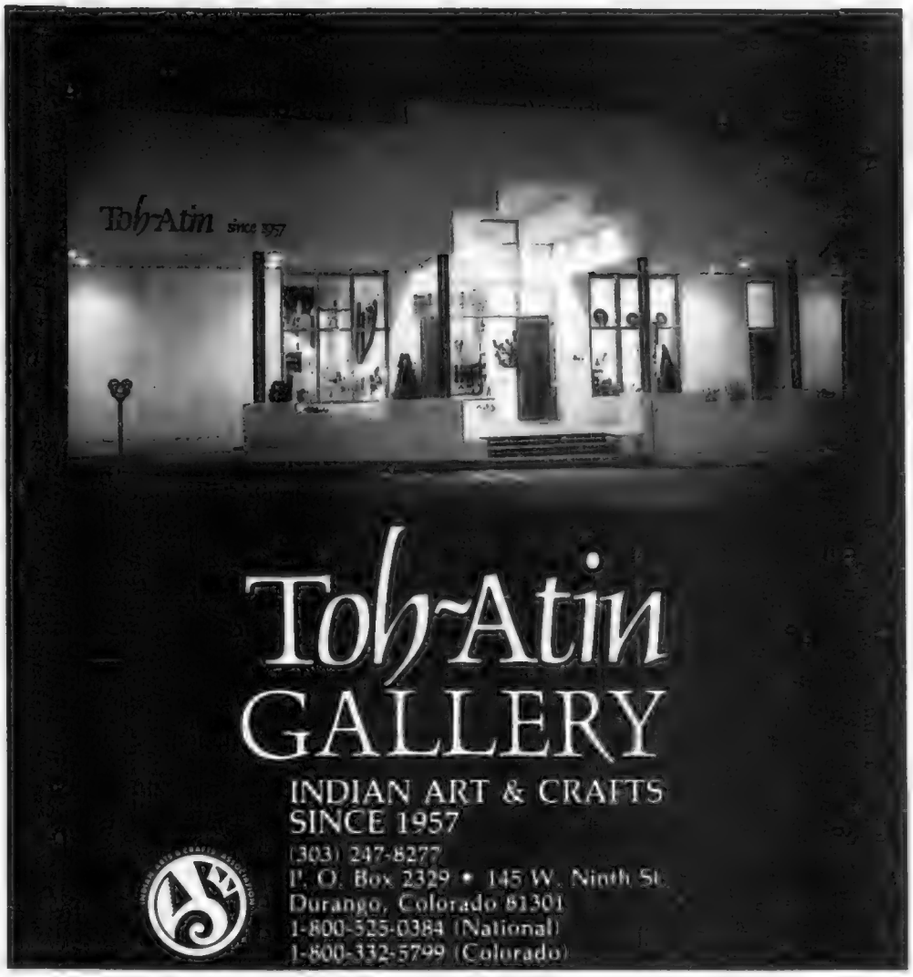

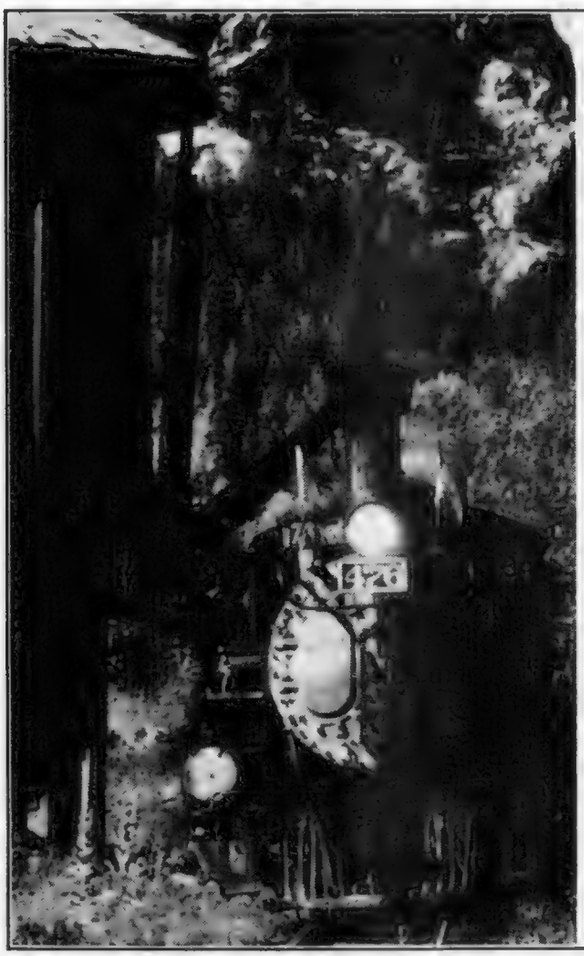

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ON A SWELTERING AFTERNOON IN 1936, DOROTHY Hustead walked with her young son Bill to the outskirts of Wall, South Dakota, to rest in a house that offered cooler breezes than the stuffy store in which the Husteads lived. The steady traffic whizzing by on the new highway out of the Badlands kept Mrs. Hustead awake, but the racket gave her an idea that saved the family business.

Back in 1931 young pharmacist Ted Hustead and his wife, Dorothy, took over the Wall Drugstore, feeling that the community was a good place to raise a family. Times were not promising. The Badlands were in the grip of a depression that started in South Dakota before the crash of 1929. Low farm prices, meager rainfall, and blistering heat had hit Wall hard. The farmers who tilled the arid prairies that dip into the Badlands bowl could scarcely afford medicines from Wall Drug. Ice cream sodas from the fancy drugstore fountain were unattainable ambrosia.

"We weren't selling three ice cream cones a day," Ted says of those lean years. He recalls that by the height of the Dust Bowl days seventy-five percent of the area's farms and ranches were owned by the county—owners simply could not pay the taxes. The drugstore's take—what little there was—came through trade generated by skimpy wages paid by the Works Progress Administration to crews of once-independent farmers.

During those hard times, Ted gave up his Model A Ford to save the price of gasoline, and the family lived in a curtained-off portion of the store. That curtained-off living room became a gathering place for townspeople. Teachers from the local school often dropped in to visit, Ted remembers, but since they worked for warrants from the bankrupt school district, they seldom bought anything. "They read the magazines from the racks," Ted laughs, "and of course returned them unpurchased. We'd pop corn and make candy and have a good time." The Wall Drug soda fountain in front remained a largely unused behemoth.

Despite discouraging times, the Husteads were determined to make a go of their business, and the townspeople urged them to stick out the dry spell. This advice proved fruitful—to Wall, to the Husteads, and to millions of tourists who have stopped by during the years since.

Dorothy Hustead's idea on that hot afternoon in 1936 led to the development of the most famous, if not the largest, modern drugstore in the world, Wall Drug of Wall, South Dakota. Her idea combined native canniness needed to survive in bleak times with the principles that the Husteads have followed since they took over their business: a lot of faith in people, concern for their comfort, and a determination that they enjoy their visit to Wall Drug.

"You've got a good fountain but no business," Dorothy reminded her husband. She reasoned that tourists driving past Wall must be travel-worn and thirsty as they sped west to Rapid City and the cool Black Hills. She told Ted to "get a high school boy *right away* to make signs offering FREE ICE WATER AT WALL DRUG," and to get them up along the road immediately. "We'd hardly got 'em up before people started turning in," Ted marvels today.

In the tradition of the Burma Shave signs, Dorothy Hustead started composing road-sign jingles about the free ice water at Wall Drug. Ted continued putting up the signs, and the Wall Drug empire was founded on ice water and simple advertising.

The following summer was just as hot, but Ted had a lot of new signs scattered along the highway and a crew of eight girls working for him. They were all passing out plenty of *free* ice water—even filling jugs with it—and *selling* ice cream, malts, Badlands postcards, Western souvenirs, and a growing stock of tempting trinkets.

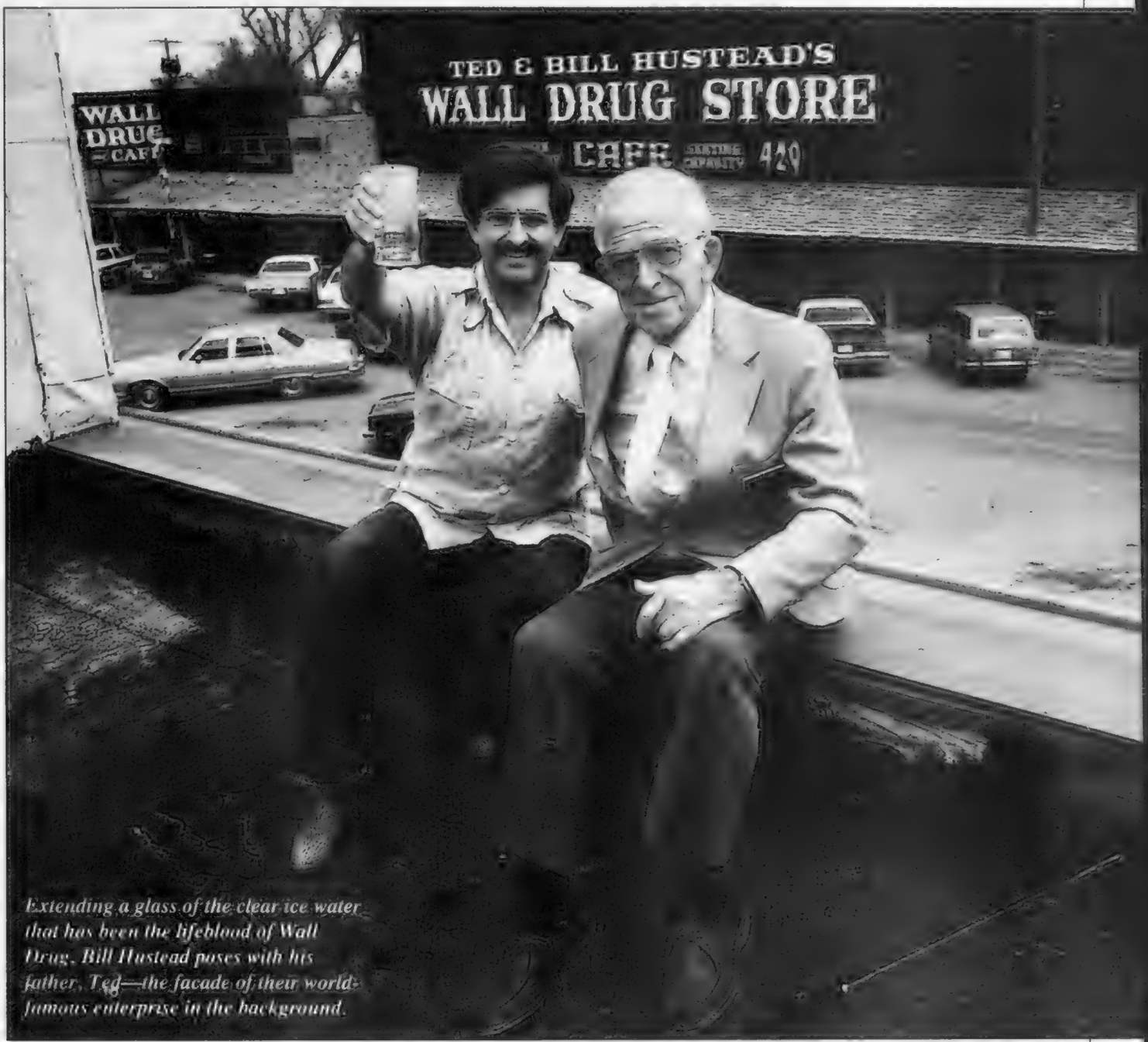
The demand for ice water became so great that Ted installed a cistern and filled it with hauled-in water. In winter he cut ice and stored it, and though he claims he's not the least bit mechanical, he rigged up a thirty-gallon water tank near the fountain. A hose pumped water from the cistern into those glasses and jugs held by thirsty customers.

Except for a slowing down during wartime gasoline rationing periods, Wall Drug has generally enjoyed unusual growth. Today it covers over an acre and dominates a good-sized chunk

Wall Drug — South Dakota's Tourist Emporium

Built on ice water, road signs, and hometown friendliness

by William T. Anderson



Extending a glass of the clear ice water that has been the lifeblood of Wall Drug, Bill Hustead poses with his father, Ted—the facade of their world-famous enterprise in the background.

PHOTO COURTESY TED HUSTEAD

of downtown Wall. The attractive, western-style building contains a variety of operations, all geared to serve tourists. Four dining rooms (one of them lined with 179 original oil paintings of Western art) serve up to five thousand meals a day. "Good food, at a reasonable price," is the way Ted describes the fare, which includes homemade caramel rolls, pie, and doughnuts served fresh from the store's own bakery. Ted is proud of the quick service. "We can get a whole busload served and on its way in thirty minutes," he notes. As many as two thousand eggs are cooked on a busy morning, and the coffee is still an amazing 5¢ a cup.

Other shops in the Wall Drug mall include an amazing rockhound's haven, a camp store, jewelry emporium, souvenir department, "postcard office," a well-stocked bookstore, and a busy Western wear shop. "Everybody wants a cowboy hat," Ted chuckles. Stock in the stores runs the full gamut from gag souvenirs to finely wrought art and crafted items. Everything from petrified wood to prescriptions is obtainable—yes, Ted Hustead still holds his pharmacist's license and dispenses medicines and veterinary supplies to area ranchers. "You know what this is like?" quips a package-laden tourist. "It's like a state fair!"

WALL DRUG'S FREQUENT EXPANSIONS HAVE INCLUDED innovations designed simply to entertain. Twenty years ago "The Back Yard" was added, an enclosed fortlike complex across the alley from the main store. There children ooh and ahh over whimsical displays like a six-foot jack rabbit, a bucking horse, stuffed buffalo, covered wagon, 1908 Hupmobile, and a replica of Mount Rushmore. There's

also a curious "prairie beast" called a Jack-a-lope, which is a fanciful cross between a jack rabbit and an antelope. And true to the store's advertising claim, the Ice Water Well is there to serve travelers. Throughout the store are carved life-sized figures of Old West characters like Wild Bill Hickok, Annie Oakley, Crazy Horse, Calamity Jane, Butch Cassidy, and the Sundance Kid, as well as a mechanical Cowboy Orchestra.

Ted takes particular pride in the antique apothecary shop and the expanded Hole-in-the-Wall bookstore where many obscure titles on Western history and lore can be purchased. The expanded building also includes a Traveler's Chapel dedicated to the memory of the men who have served the religious needs of the Badlands area. The chapel is designed like the one built by Trappists at Dubuque, Iowa, in 1850, and has century-old stained-glass windows from Pierre, South Dakota.

Five years ago Ted and Dorothy Hustead officially retired and turned the reins of the business over to their son Bill, whom they credit with Wall Drug's current design and prosperity. They like to winter in Hawaii, but during the peak summer tourist season both of them go to work at the store each morning. Dorothy handles the finances for Wall Drug and Ted is involved in dozens of projects. He carries on a voluminous correspondence, and though his desk is littered with piles of papers, he insists he knows where everything is, declaring that "a neat desk is the sign of a troubled mind." Through the summer months a steady stream of old friends, former employees, and interviewers troop up the steps to Ted's office.

Very much a family man, keeping track of four children, sixteen grandchildren and several great-grandchildren, Ted has made Wall Drug a family project. His children all began helping in the business when they were between eight and ten years old. Each of Bill's seven children has worked for the family through high school and college, along with their pharmacist mother. Rick Hustead has joined his father and grandfather in operating Wall Drug, making it a three-generation teamwork. Every summer Dorothy's two sisters arrive to help at the store. "Yes, we've had a lot of family here over the past forty years," Ted admits proudly. "Anywhere from six to fifteen at a time."

The family feeling that Ted relishes extends to all the crew. "We never lay anyone off," Ted explains. When the tourist season ends in November, the thirty regular employees stagger their vacations or voluntarily retire for the winter months. For the summer rush, the Husteads rely on college students. They recruit nationally, and nearly one hundred students from coast-to-coast fill the summer positions. "Any student wanting money to continue education is eligible—they are the very best kind of workers," Ted remarks.

One of Ted's favorite chores is training and nurturing the summer staff. He learns each name and coaches the student help on Badlands history and Wall Drug lore (a test is given early in the season). He offers tips in frequent employee bulletins and solved the problem of housing the considerable staff years ago. Now the Husteads maintain fifteen houses in Wall to use as dorms, which they rent for a reasonable fee. "Our rules are similar to a college dorm," Ted mentions. "People send their children out here and they expect they'll be taken

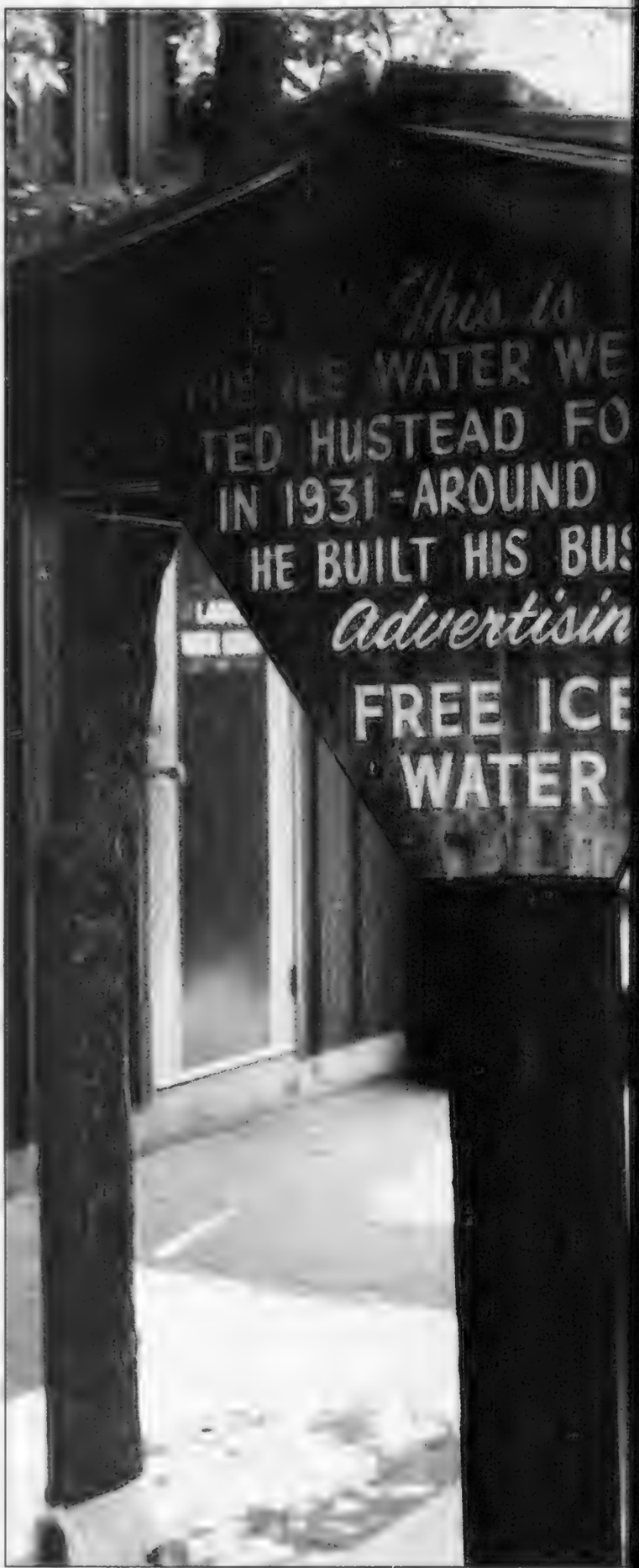


PHOTO COURTESY TED HUSTEAD

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(Top) ***Wall Drug, as it appeared in the early forties, was a far cry from the sprawling drugstore and tourist emporium one finds today—a complex of shops and curiosities like the mechanical cowboy pictured at left with his "friends."*** **(Above)** ***A massive system of billboards such as these, advertising Western oil paintings and fresh cinnamon rolls, has enticed people for decades to rest and join the fun at Wall Drug. Wall Drug's roadsigns are found all over the United States and the world, in cities like Paris, London, Amsterdam, and Shanghai. Locally, signs advertising ice water have long drawn thirsty travelers off the highway that rolls past Wall and the Badlands National Park. The photo at the far left celebrates the famous "Ice Water Well" that still provides relief to summer wayfarers.***

PHOTO COURTESY THE AUTHOR

PHOTO COURTESY TED HUSTEAD

The action-packed billboard above is true to the spirit of Wall Drug—a Badlands spectacle, a conglomeration of fantastic creatures, Western art galleries, a Western lore and history bookstore, restaurant, and shops like the new "old" apothecary museum of which Ted Hustead is especially proud.

care of." Many student employees come back year after year. Predictably, dozens of Wall Drug-inspired weddings have occurred over the years.

Wall Drug is famous for the network of thousands of road signs that provide some of the mystique that draws tourists to the store. The signs are simple, short, and tempting. "SIX FOOT RABBIT, SEE IT FREE, WALL DRUG" cajoles children, while the promise of "5¢ COFFEE, WALL DRUG" lures their parents. Offerings of free campground lists, Badlands maps, and of course the free ice water all create an urge to stop at Wall. The signs appear in each state, and since World War II they have been planted over the globe. Servicemen have placed signs everywhere from Viet Nam to Amsterdam. One in Paris directs pedestrians along the rue Chalons Louvois to Wall Drug—exactly 4,278 miles due west.

Wall Drug is even a good place to get lost. "Excuse me, Ted," a neatly dressed, camera-toting tourist says as he approaches the white-haired "Mr. Wall Drug." "We've been here for two hours already, and if we can ever find our kids, my wife and I would like to get going!"

That's exactly what Ted Hustead of Wall Drug likes to hear.

William Anderson *is a teacher and freelance writer living in Davison, Michigan, who is interested in Western history, particularly the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder (see "It Is Better Farther On," AMERICAN WEST, May/June 1984). One of his many articles on Mrs. Wilder won the 1984 Ray Billington Award of the Western History Association for the best article on Western history.*

WHEN YOU GO

Just off I-90 on exits 109 and 110, Wall, South Dakota, is close to several major attractions in the southwestern quarter of the state. After quenching their thirst and curiosity at Wall Drug, travelers can head south a short distance on highway 240 to see the contorted, erosion-worn rock—spires, buttes, and gorges—in the Badlands National Park.

An hour or so to the west on I-90 one runs into Rapid City and the Black Hills National Forest—home of numerous natural wonders and man-made marvels. South of Rapid City in the Black Hills there's Mammoth Site, a paleontologic dig in Hot Springs where skeletons of ice-age mammoths are being excavated. (Take highway 79 southwest off I-90 about 50 miles to U.S. 18, then west a few miles.) And near Custer, less than an hour's drive from Rapid City, one can visit Custer State Park—73,000 acres of spectacular terrain with abundant wildlife and the world's largest herd of publicly owned buffalo. (Take U.S. 16 south from Rapid City about 40 miles.)

Hiking, camping, and picnicking areas abound in the Black Hills as well as the Badlands. Other highlights in this corner of the state include the spelunkers' delight of Jewel and Wind caves, the epic sculpture of Mount Rushmore, and Crazy Horse Monument (a mountain sculpture in progress). For literature and information write South Dakota Division of Tourism, Box 1000, Pierre, South Dakota 57501 or telephone (800) 843-1930.

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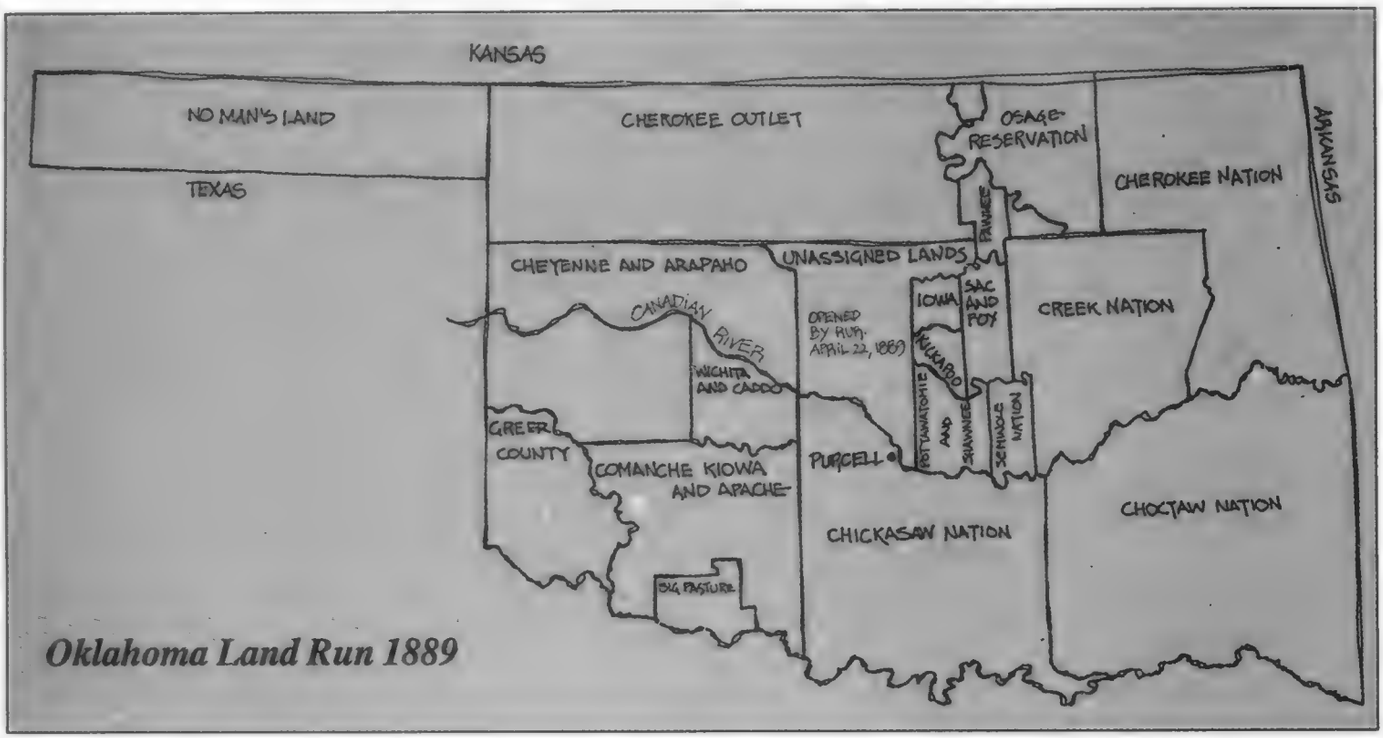
Memories of the first Oklahoma land run

by William E. Shute

Harrison's Horse Race

The following account is taken from the memoirs of William E. Shute (1860–1944), a young adventurer on the Western frontier during the last part of the nineteenth century. A native of Champlain, New York, Shute arrived in Colorado in 1877 during the excitement surrounding rich silver strikes. His energy and curiosity led him into many activities: mining, cattle raising, and law enforcement in Colorado; the land rush in Oklahoma in 1889; to the Yukon gold-rush settlements in 1898; to Alaska in 1898 and 1900. In 1902 W. E. Shute moved his family to southern California where at various times he operated a furniture business and a real estate business, staked out mining claims in Sonora, Mexico, and rode with Pancho Villa. He spent the last few years of his life in Pasadena writing his memoirs. Shute's great-granddaughter, Laura J. Diederich of Altadena, California, has edited his reminiscences. (See also William E. Shute, "Adventure, Luck, and Hot Air on Colorado Frontier," AMERICAN WEST, *May/June 1983.)*

Such a diversified aggregation of human beings, saints and sinners, had never before assembled.



Oklahoma Land Run 1889

WHILE IN DENVER, COLORADO, IN MARCH 1889, rumors reached me that Oklahoma was about to be opened for settlement. The occasion was known as Harrison's Horse Race [after President Benjamin Harrison who authorized the opening of the unassigned lands to white settlement], the greatest horse race known to history. My disposition being of a somewhat roving nature, I decided to go to have a look, and perhaps get a claim. So I bought a ticket via Santa Fe Railroad to Purcell, Indian Territory, which was in the Chickasaw Indian Nation and across the Canadian River from Oklahoma Territory. When I arrived there I bought a horse, tent and camp equipment, and camped at Purcell about two weeks; then I moved to the Pottawatamie country which forms part of the eastern line of Oklahoma Territory. It was there that I met Bill Ainsley, Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal for that district, who deputized me to fire the opening gun at 12 o'clock noon, April 22, 1889, on the Pottawatamie line, notifying all persons within hearing distance that Oklahoma was open for settlement. Because I was an officer it was against the law for me to take a claim, but I wanted one, so I mentioned to a man by the name of Josh Hill, an old hunter and trapper, that if he got a claim and did not want to keep it I might buy it from him. He got the claim and didn't want to keep it.

The night before the opening, there was lined up along the line a conglomeration of human beings from the four corners of the earth, all waiting and wishing to get something for nothing. Prior to the settling of Oklahoma, the Indian Territory seems to have been the rendezvous for all sorts of criminals. Even the women became infected with the malady. Belle Starr, Cattle Annie, Rose of Cimarron, Little Britches and several others who were a credit to the profession were there. An old timer, who had spent several years in the territory and was a habitual loafer at my camp, would point out to me some of the noted characters, both good and bad. Among them were murderers, horse thieves, train robbers, sky pilots, evangelists and gamblers. He seemed to know them all. The exhortations of the evangelists and sky pilots could be heard above the whirr of the roulette wheel and the rattle of dice. Such a diversified aggregation of human beings, saints and sinners, was never seen before or since. About a hundred yards from my camp two gamblers set up a tent and installed a roulette wheel. The people swarmed around it like bees around a honey pot, but I guess that was okay as they had to amuse themselves at something while waiting for the opening signal.

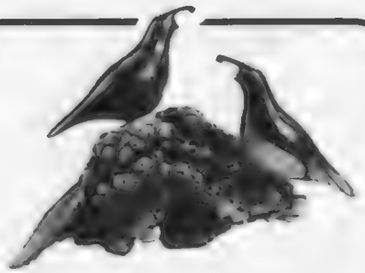
My duty besides firing the signal gun was watching for "sooners," who were persons going into Oklahoma before the legal opening, who if caught, would forfeit their right to a claim. The morning of the opening, at about three o'clock A.M., my posseman (as Deputy, I was furnished an assistant) awoke me from a sound sleep and notified me that a lady was outside and wished to talk to me. I was opposed to getting up so early, and I expect that I was somewhat grouchy, but when I saw that female, with the light of the camp fire shining on her pale white face, I suddenly changed my attitude. She was a beauty, and I should judge that she was thirty or thirty-five years of age. She asked me if she could talk to me privately. We walked a little way from camp, when she said to me: "I want to get a claim today, and I suggest that you tell me how to do it. I must get one. I have staked my all upon it. I am a widow, with two children. I have a few head of cows, but no money. My horse, as you can see, is no race horse and cannot compete with the thousands of other swifter animals."

Needless to say, if she had asked me for my shirt, I would have taken it off right then and there and given it to her. As it was, I saddled my horse and told her to follow me. We rode a half mile through the timber to a claim that was nearly all meadow, and had a fine spring of water. It was the claim that I was going to hire a man to take for me. I took her to this claim where I drove a stake in the ground out in the open meadow and asked her to hang her riding skirt on it. We then went back to the line to wait for 12 o'clock. I told her at the sound of the gun to get to the claim as soon as possible, and if anyone got there before she did, they would see the skirt hanging on the stake and think that someone had already taken [the claim] and go looking for another. As soon as she got on the claim, she was to picket her horse out in the open where he could be plainly seen. She carried out my orders like a good soldier, and when I saw her last she was holding down the claim.

THE SETTLING OF OKLAHOMA WAS A DEATH BLOW TO THE outlaws who infested the country, as it acted as a corridor between eastern and western Indian Territory. Oklahoma being thickly settled made it too dangerous for the outlaws to pass from east to west and vice versa. The line between Oklahoma and the Pottawatamie country can be traced for years to come by the refuse left there by the "Boomers" who camped there awaiting the opening of Oklahoma. In fact, it resembled to some extent, a city garbage dump. There were tin cans, old rags, gunny sacks, hay wire, stumps from trees that had been cut down for firewood, and miscellaneous refuse that would accumulate from a large camp. This camping ground was only about a couple of hundred yards wide, but miles long. Everyone camped as near the line as possible.

I noticed one man in particular whose name was Ward. He had a team of scrawny ponies and an old wagon loaded with household "plunder." He unhitched his ponies and by hand pushed his wagon up within a foot of the line. When he saw me raise my hand to fire the signal gun he grabbed the wagon tongue and his wife a rear wheel and pushed it over the line and yelled, "My claim!"

A man by the name of Jones was camped just over the line in the Pottawatamie country with his wife and year-old baby boy. He said that he came to get a claim, "And no foolin'." He packed a wicked looking gun and looked as if he might use it. Unfortunately, he had no horse to make the run, but he had a fine yoke of oxen. However, as everyone knows, oxen are not very fleet of foot. So the evening before the opening, he drove his oxen over into Oklahoma and turned them loose. They started grazing and did not wander far from where he had left them. The next day, when the signal was given that Oklahoma was open for settlement, he leisurely walked over to where the oxen were and put up a notice that he claimed that quarter section as a homestead. Anyone seeing his oxen on the land would take it for granted that it had been taken. He got the claim.



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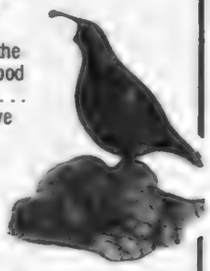

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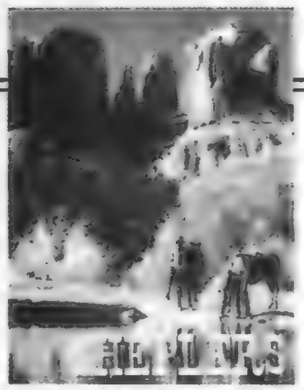

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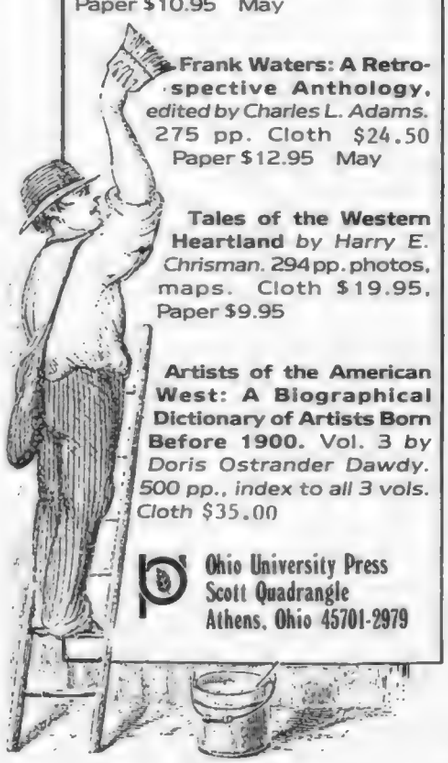

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Letters to the Editor_

Montana Fires

The story about the Roen and Charter families and the problems they encountered as a result of the Bull Mountains fire triggered some bitter memories—not of fire, rather of a massive snowstorm that left this part of Arizona under seven feet of the white stuff. The storm took place during a three-day period early in December of 1967.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of our cattle died. Our greatest loss, just as in the case of the Roens and Charters, were the fences. The weight of the snow simply demolished them. It took me and a hired man from the spring of 1968 to the summer of 1975 to rebuild all the fences destroyed in that one three-day storm. I can feel for the Roens and the Charters. We have tough times, too, on our Arizona ranges.

Kel M. Fox
Munds Park, Arizona

A reader has informed us of an unfortunate sequel to the tragic experiences of the Cliff Roens, who suffered great losses in the fires that swept the Bull Mountains of Montana last August. (See "After the Big Fire in Next-Year Country" by Carol Ann Bassett, AMERICAN WEST, January/February 1985.) Recently, while the Roens were relocating cattle, someone broke into a locked metal shed on their place and stole $5,000 worth of tools that had been salvaged from the fire.—Ed.

Peacock's Grizzlies

During a thirty-four year career in aerospace manufacturing that required considerable technical and proposal writing, I learned to appreciate and respect those few who have mastered the fine art of stringing words together, logically and interestingly. The November/December issue contained two superb examples: Tom Pew's "View from the West," and Doug Peacock's "A Gathering of Grizzlies." My congratulations to both.

E. L. Skipworth
San Fernando, California

My eyebrows shot up when I read "View from the West" in the November/December 1984 issue of AMERICAN WEST. You wrote (regarding Doug Peacock's "A Gathering of Grizzlies"): "One of the finest articles we have ever published in AMERICAN WEST," and "The writing is

beautiful. The feeling was more." Indeed? More hype, I thought. No one could be that good!

Then, I read "A Gathering of Grizzlies" and discovered exactly what you had discovered. You are right; it *is* one of the finest articles ever published in AMERICAN WEST. And, the feeling of Doug Peacock's philosophy comes through strong and true. I hope his book is progressing rapidly and that he will not keep us waiting long.

Barbara Herigstad
Spearfish, South Dakota

Doug Peacock's article on the grizzly bear is superb. I have long been interested in the grizzly. I have many books and articles on the bear, but Doug describes his experiences far better than anyone that I have read about. Let us know when Peacock's book comes out. I want to purchase it.

William L. Fearing
Ellicott City, Maryland

Our whole family read with great interest your article "A Gathering of Grizzlies" in the November/December issue. It was so graphic it made us feel like looking over our shoulder every few minutes. Please keep us reading more of Doug Peacock's adventures. We don't want to lose track of him.

Margie Oliver
St. Louis, Missouri

AMERICAN WEST is a wonderful magazine. Our family really likes it. I sent the story of the grizzlies to my relatives in Swan Hills north of Edmonton, Canada. Their bears must be meaner than our bears. For instance, their daughter met up with a grizzly in the blueberry patch and although the mother and two children tried to quietly slip away, the grizzly ran her down and killed her.

At another time when two men of the same family were skinning out a moose, a grizzly attacked them and they barely escaped after making it to a truck. (Maybe those Canadians taste better?)

Viola M. Fisher
Spokane, Washington

Memories of Buffalo Bill

I saw Buffalo Bill mentioned in your brochure. Buffalo Bill was my hero or idol. As a boy of thirteen-fourteen years of age, I had an Eastman Brownie Camera (cost $1.25). Buffalo Bill's show came to Boise, Idaho, about 1904 or 1905, his cowboys,

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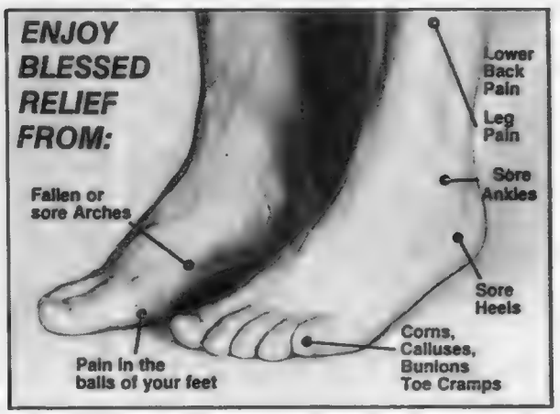

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* Jock Hutchison, Jr. Northfield, Illinois

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* Actual photos of customers who sent us these letters.

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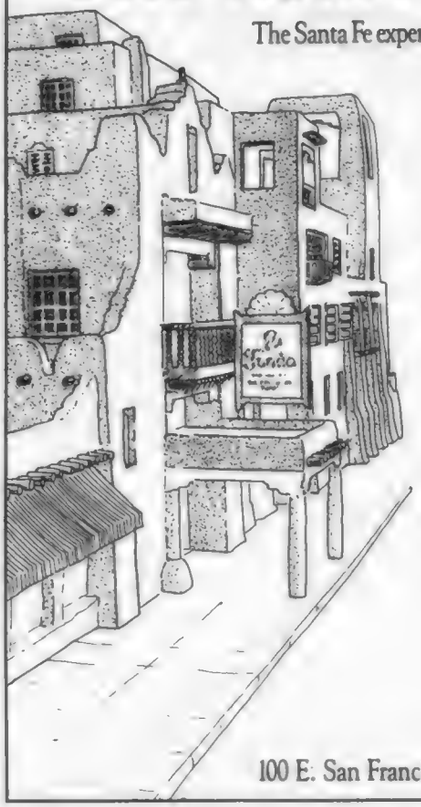

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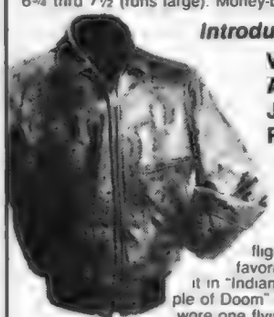

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Letters

Indians, and horses all decked out in the greatest style. Trying to get a picture of Buffalo Bill while he was in the parade, I kept running alongside. Finally he saw me and pulled out of line, reined up his horse, raised his hat in a salute position, and I got the best picture you ever saw. I was just a kid, but here was Buffalo Bill observing what I was trying to do, and he pulled out of the parade just for me. I am now ninety-seven years old, and I have never forgotten this act of Buffalo Bill. It is as vivid today as then.

Clyde C. Hall
San Leandro, California

My father was a frontier Methodist minister in Montana. I can barely remember William F. Cody visiting the parsonage while in town and taking time to tell me a story! I have a bottle of uncut Montana rubies my father collected while building a new church in the Ruby Valley in the southwestern part of the state. The Methodist Conference used him to go into new or unreached areas to build a new church. He built nine.

I can remember his holding services in the local bar while the church was being built—just like in the movies!

In one of them there was a big beam over the bar, and road-agents' ears were nailed to it, put there by vigilantes. This was just north of Yellowstone Park, for we would take camping trips down to Yellowstone. One night we nearly walked into Morningglory Pool!

Keep up your fine journalism.

Robert H. Whiteley
Chula Vista, California

Las Cruces Mural

Regarding the enclosed photograph, a few months ago you published the very interesting article and photograph of the colorful water

tank painted by our Tony Pennock ("Western Snapshots Today," July/August 1984). I am sure his latest mural (enclosed) far exceeds his prior. Tony Pennock and Jesse Molina, both from Las Cruces, recently completed this 14,500 square-foot mural in approxi-

mately five months. It depicts a Mesilla Valley agrarian scene in the 1700s.

I do hope you will publish this as a follow-up of Mr. Pennock's first efforts, as he is a true artist. He does not know me, but I did talk to him one day as he was "up there" painting away.

Robert O. Allen
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Gun Identifications

Having been involved with American firearms of the 1800s for quite some time now, I will have to take exception to the information in your "Western Snapshots Yesterday" picture in the January/February issue of AMERICAN WEST. The caption for this photo states that "The guns in the photograph are identified as the breech-loading rifle-muskets these men had used as volunteers in the Union Army." I hardly think that this would be the case despite the family traditions of the person who submitted the excellent photo. The photo is much more representative of what a group of hunters would have been carrying in 1880.

The closest thing to a "rifled-musket" is the center rifle which is a trapdoor Springfield. At the earliest this would have been a model 1866 (which was a conversion of the Civil War muzzle loader). More likely it is the much more common Model 1873 Springfield which served the American military from roughly 1873 through the Spanish American war. A few were still in use by National Guard units as late as 1942 as I once owned one branded "Ore, 1942" indicating use by the Oregon National Guard in that year.

The extreme right firearm is an external hammer shotgun and apparently a muzzle loader. As such it *could* have seen service in the Civil War, but it is rather unlikely that a Union army unit would have been armed with them. They were used often early in the War by Confederate cavalry units because they were double barreled and provided a rather rapid second shot. They were soon dropped as they were replaced with harder hitting, longer ranged, carbines captured on the battlefields. Still this one arm "could" have seen service in the War. The two remaining rifles that are clearly visible (and the one partly hidden) appear to be Model 1873, or possibly 1866, Winchesters—both of which were manufactured after the War. Their predecessor, the Henry Rifle, was used to a small extent during the Civil War but did not have a wooden forearm or side-loading gate.

All of the people (except the child) certainly look old enough and "salty" enough to have been veterans of the conflict, but it is

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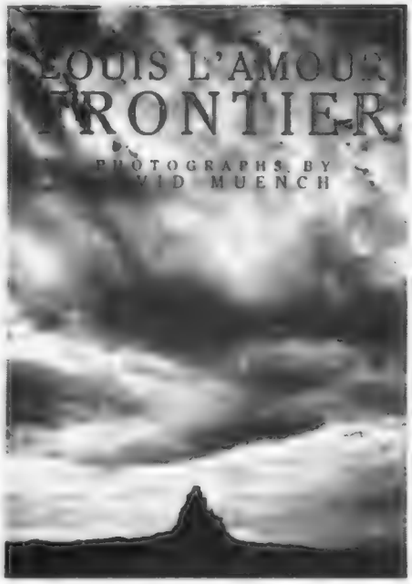

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Letters

unlikely that any of the firearms were used in the Civil War. The composition of the group suggests a heck of a good hunting party of the period though!

George F. Babits, Jr.
Salmon, Idaho

Someone misinformed you. Jim Price is holding a "HENRY" repeating rifle; so is the second man from the right. The only obvious *muzzle* loading musket is held by the man in the center. There were relatively *no breech* loading rifles issued during the Civil War. The man at extreme right appears to be holding a muzzle loading shotgun.

Clark H. Hogan
Palmerdale, Alabama

Many of our sharp-eyed readers wrote to tell us that we were misinformed regarding identification of the guns in "Western Snapshots Yesterday," January/February, with some disagreement among them. We thank them all.—Ed.

Arbuckles' Again

In 1935 I spent several days in a motel at Thoreau, New Mexico (pronounced "thru"), and while playing cards with the owner he told me this story. A wealthy Shriner stayed in the motel and inquired about the best Navajo weaver. The owner went with him to a weaver and told her what was wanted—a fairly large rug with the masonic emblem in the center. The weaver wanted a sketch; so while she continued weaving, the Shriner drew the masonic emblem on the side of a carton. She said good, he paid in advance, and said he would be back in two months for the rug.

When he came to get it he was shocked, and then began to laugh. The rug was perfect, and so was the emblem, but across it was ARBUCKLE COFFEE. He was a good sport, said that's just fine, make another one but leave out the coffee, and paid in advance for the second one. I like your magazine.

Earl V. Koons, Sr.
Hemet, California

See "Arbuckles'—the Coffee That Won the West" by Francis L. Fugate in AMERICAN WEST *for January/February 1984.—Ed.*

AMERICAN WEST welcomes letters from its readers. Some editing of letters may be necessary in order to print a cross section of those we receive. Please address: Letters to the Editor, AMERICAN WEST, 3033 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, Ariz. 85719.

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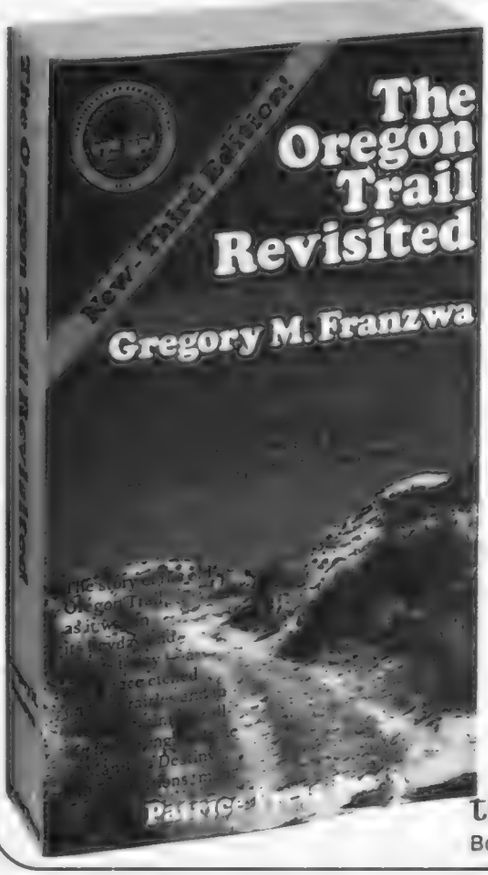

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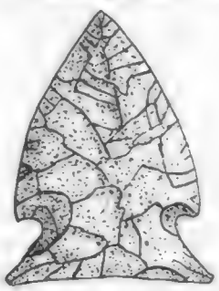

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Western Books in Brief

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Reno: Hub of the Washoe Country: An Illustrated History *by William D. Rowley (Windsor Publications, Inc., Woodland Hills, California, 1984; 126 pp., illus., index, biblio., $22.95).*
Rowley traces the history of Reno from its beginnings during the Comstock Lode days when Washoe and Paiute Indians were the principal inhabitants of the area. Starting from a toll bridge over the Truckee River, Reno evolved into a city famous for its quick divorces and legalized gambling. Many old photographs add to the themes of economic priorities, moral attitudes, and progress in Reno.

The Day the Sun Rose Twice: The Story of the Trinity Site Nuclear Explosion, July 16, 1945 *by Ferenc Morton Szasz (University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1984; 244 pp., index, illus., notes, $15.95).*
The characters and facts behind the explosion of the first atomic bomb are portrayed in this thought-provoking book. Working in the isolated community of Los Alamos, New Mexico, scientists strove to unlock the secrets of nuclear fission before the Nazis did. Participants in the project worried about the results, slowly awakening to the possible effects their discovery might have on the future.

Emigrant Trails West: A Guide to Trail Markers Placed by Trails West, Inc. *by Devere and Helen Hefrich and Thomas Hunt (Trails West, Inc., Reno, 1984; 223 pp., illus., maps, biblio., paper $12.50).*
The Trails West group provides maps and markers for many of the historic landmarks throughout the West. Excerpts from the journals of nineteenth-century pioneers who camped and traveled along the trails describe each site and tell of the settlers' experiences.

Historic Ships of San Francisco: A Collective History and Guide to the Restored Historic Vessels of the National Maritime Museum *by Steven Levingston (Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1984; 124 pp., illus., index, biblio., paper $8.95).*
Vintage photographs accompany lively stories about the histories of these crafts. A sailing schooner, a ferry boat, and a World War II submarine are among the ships featured. The

author also tells of the difficulties in preserving these national treasures.

Heroes, Villains and Ghosts: Folklore of Old California *by Hector Lee (Capra Press, Santa Barbara, 1984; 196 pp., illus., paper $8.95).*
Some historical, some legendary, these tales capture the imagination. The author claims that a factual story may not be as interesting as a legend containing the "essential truth" of an incident. Real or not, characters like Charley Parkhurst and the Blue Lake monster make exciting reading.

Big Sur and the Central Coast *photog. by David Muench, intro. by Jeffrey Whitmore (Oxford University Press, Toronto, 1984; 91 pp., illus., $15.00).*
Muench's color photographs capture the majestic and the minute aspects of the beauty of California's Central Coast. Headlands shaped by powerful tides, historic missions, and lilies along a coastal creek are all a part of the appeal of this rugged stretch of coastline. Sparsely populated, the area hosts a variety of wildlife available for Muench's camera.

Canadian Bush Pilot Ernie Boffa *by Florence Whyard (Alaska Northwest, Anchorage, 1984; 156 pp., illus., maps, paper $7.95).*
Ernie Boffa seems to have been born a mechanic. Beginning with bicycles, he went on to tinker with cars and then airplanes. This interesting account tells of his days as a wingwalker in the 1930s and as a pilot for Canadian Pacific Air, when he earned the reputation of being "the best bush pilot of the 1940s."

The History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition *by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, ed. by Elliot Coues in three volumes (First published in 1893. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1984; 1,364 pp., index, maps, appendix, paper $7.50 each).*
Meriwether Lewis and William Clark kept thorough records as they explored the West along the Missouri River and on to the Northwest coast from 1804–1806. These three volumes describe the geography of the land, the Indians they met, the animals and plants they saw, and how they overcame the difficulties of the journey. An original map drawn by Clark en route and a later map prepared by editor Coues chart the expedition's progress.

Mountain Time *by Paul Schullery (Schocken Books/Nick Lyons Books, New York, 1984; 235 pp., biblio., $17.95).*
Schullery was a park ranger in Yellowstone Park for several years. His sensitive writing shows his love for the wilderness and his concern for its preservation. Humorous anecdotes about impatient tourists are mixed with serious discussions about park management in this engaging book.

The Art and Life of W. Herbert Dunton, 1878–1936 *by Julie Schimmel (University of Texas Press, Austin, 1984; 268 pp., illus., index, $24.95).*
W. Herbert Dunton's many paintings and drawings, which often appeared on the covers of popular magazines and between the pages of Zane Grey novels, are beautifully reproduced in this book. In 1912, Dunton, along with five other artists, founded the Taos Society of Artists. His earlier works depict cowboys, Indians, and life on the range, while his later ones are richly colored portraits and wildlife paintings.

Great Rivers of the World *(National Geographic Society, Dept. 100, Washington, D.C., 20086, 1984; 448 pp., illus., index, $24.95 postpaid).*
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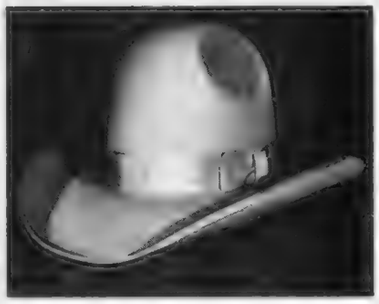

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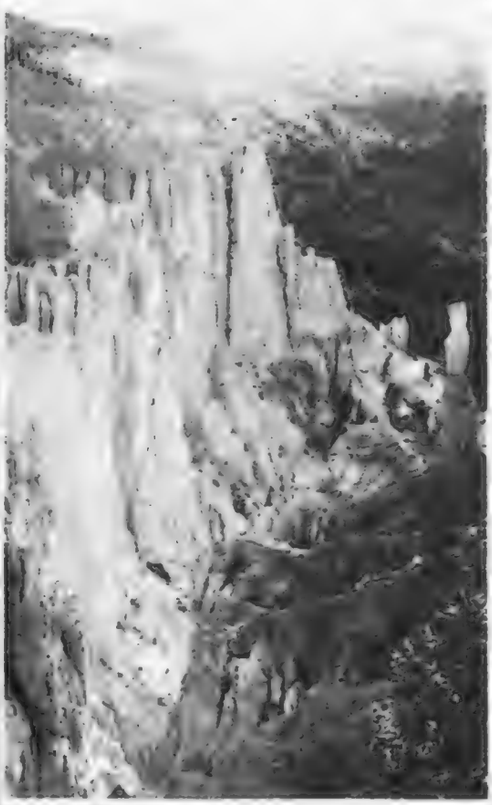

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Pieces of White Shell *by Terry Tempest Williams (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1984; 162 pp., illus., biblio., $14.95).*
Williams writes in a refreshing style about the legends of the Navajo people and their integral relation to the natural history of the Southwest. Tales about the creation of birds from a basket of feathers and the way that Coyote brought fire to the world entertain and also reveal how the Navajos' culture binds them to the land and to each other.

Sky People *by Jack Nisbet (Quartzite Books, Mount Vernon, Washington, 1984; 128 pp., paper $5.95).*
Nisbet's book reveals a little-known corner of the American West in northeastern Washington, detailing its natural history and culture. The author visits with the Spokane Indians, whose legends of the Sky People describe the origins of wildlife. Amusing anecdotes about exploring an old silver mine and searching for grouse mating-dance grounds are also included, along with Nisbet's knowledgeable comments on the local bird life.

San Diego *photog. by Bill Ross and Craig Aurness, text by Peter Jensen (Skyline Press, Port Washington, New York, 1984; 96 pp., illus., $15.95).*
Ross and Aurness's stunning full-color photographs show why San Diegans advertise their home as "America's Finest City." Glistening cityscapes, the lights of skyscrapers reflecting in the nearby bay, cliff-lined shores, desert canyons, and Spanish misssions reveal the city's natural and man-made beauty. The wide range of subjects presents an overall view of San Diego's cultural diversity.

Dust Bowl Diary *by Ann Marie Low (University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1984; 198 pp., cloth $17.95, paper $7.95).*
Low's diary vividly portrays the conditions on a rural farm in North Dakota during the nightmare days of the Dust Bowl. Written from 1927 to 1937, and rounded out with the author's current reminiscences, it tells of the struggles of her family and neighbors to survive the years of drought and of her own maturation. Capturing a bygone era, Low appeal-

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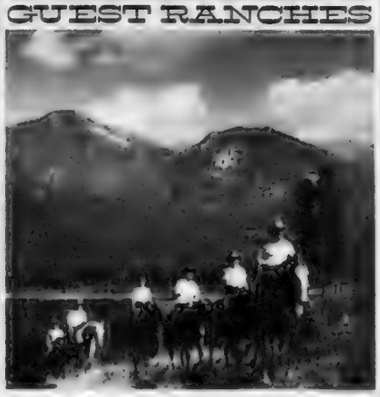

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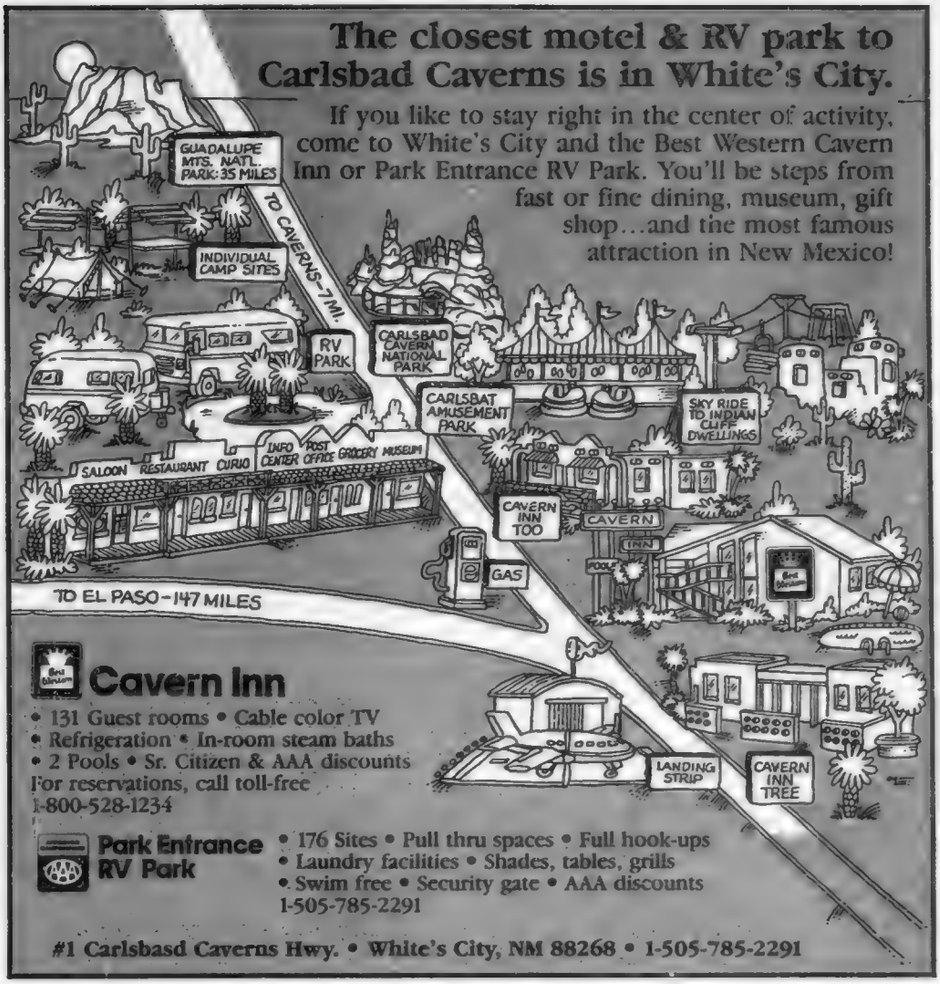

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This Land Is Your Land: The Struggle to Save America's Public Lands *by Bernard Shanks (Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1984; 320 pp., illus., biblio., index, $19.95).*
An expert on public land policy, Shanks presents a strong case for the protection of our national wilderness. He claims that the country's public lands have been plundered for private profit, most heavily during the past four years. Exploiting our resources without setting aside preservation areas, Shanks maintains, leads to the extinction of wildlife and the loss of an irreplaceable treasure.

Edward Weston Omnibus: A Critical Anthology *ed. and intro. by Beaumont Newhall and Amy Conger (Peregrine Smith Books, Salt Lake City, 1984; 222 pp., illus., index, paper $16.95).*
Friends, admirers, and critics of Edward Weston write about the style and influence of his photography. Ansel Adams and Diego Rivera, among others, comment on Weston's technique and the importance of photography as an art form. Weston's masterful black-and-white photos are included with other photographers' portraits of him through the years.

Bicycle Touring in Utah *by Dennis Coello (Dream Garden Press, Salt Lake City, 1984; 128 pp., illus., maps, paper $7.95).*
A boon to bicycle riders with a desire to explore the great outdoors, this guide provides detailed maps and route descriptions for trips through Utah's scenic mountains and parks. Coello gives valuable tips on appropriate gear to carry, where to get supplies and water, and how to handle difficult terrain. Written in a lively style, stories about the people and events of the past lend an added interest to sites along the way, as do tales of the author's own experiences.

Mountaineering Essays *by John Muir (Peregrine Smith Books, Salt Lake City, 1984; 200 pp., paper $4.95).*
Anyone who has ever felt exhilarated by climbing a mountain will identify with these eleven essays. In them, Muir observes the wilderness with a naturalist's eye and describes the joy of hiking through high ranges. He tells of the physical hardships of scaling the peaks of the Sierra and the glaciers of Alaska and also of the rewards of friendships made along the trail.

Pioneer Jews: A New Life in the Far West *by Harriet and Fred Rochlin (Houghton*

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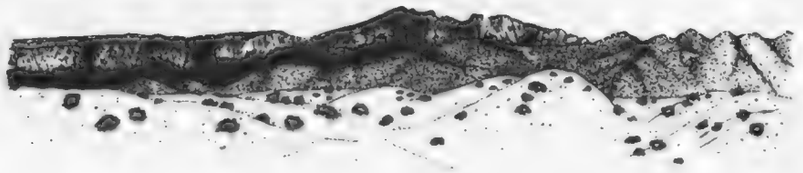

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Mifflin, New York, 1984; 243 pp., illus., index, biblio., $17.95).
Famous personalities as diverse as Levi Strauss and Gertrude Stein inhabit these pages along with less-known characters of the West. Gold-rush tales and stories of dynasty-founders tell of enterprising Jews who, while succeeding in the American West, retained their own cultural traditions. Many historical photographs accompany this well-written text.

Following the Santa Fe Trail: A Guide For Modern Travelers *by Marc Simmons (Ancient City Press, Santa Fe, 1984; 215 pp., illus., appendix, paper $8.50).*
Follow in the footsteps of the pioneers who journeyed West with this modern guide to the Santa Fe Trail. The traveler will enjoy facts about landmarks, historic trail towns, and side trips as the maps direct him from Franklin, Missouri, to the trail's end in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Tourists can pick up the 1,000 mile-long old wagon route at any point, enjoying a convenience of paved roads (for the most part) that the pioneers never knew.

Kansas Geology: An Introduction to Landscapes, Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils *ed. by Rex Buchanan (University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, 1984; 208 pp., index, illus., glossary, cloth $19.95, paper $12.95).*
Kansas is world famous for its fossil deposits. This book presents a vivid history of the creatures who lived millions of years ago and describes how both the animals and the landscape evolved. Various rocks and minerals, and the ways they influence the shape of the land, are also discussed in this introductory survey of Kansas geology.

Civil War Recollections of James Lemuel Clark *ed. by L. D. Clark (Texas A & M University Press, College Station, 1984; 124 pp., index, illus., cloth $12.50).*
James Lemuel Clark was eighteen and living in Texas when the Civil War broke out. Although Clark eventually enlisted in the Confederate Army, his father, who disagreed with Confederate policy, was executed along with forty other men in the Great Hanging at Gainesville, Texas, in 1862. In this book edited by his grandson, Clark recalls the hanging and other local politics and battle campaigns, depicting life in Texas during and after the Civil War.

Chronicles of Colorado: An Anthology *foreword by Richard D. Lamm and Michael McCarthy ed. by Frederick R. Rinehart (Roberts Rinehart, Inc., Boulder, Colorado, 1984; 210 pp., illus., cloth $15.00, paper $7.95).*

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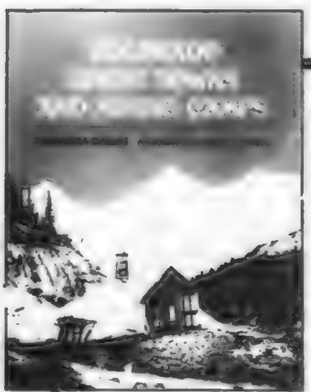

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Lavishly illustrated with 290 photographs, *Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps* is the first new book in more than 25 years to document these mountain communities. For many of the 147 towns and camps listed, not much remains to be preserved beyond what Dallas and photographer Kendal Atchison have recorded. In addition to Atchison's and early historical photographs, rare photographs from the 1920s and 1930s are included, many never published before.

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Red Shirts and Leather Helmets: Volunteer Fire Fighting on the Comstock Lode *by Steve Frady (University of Nevada Press, Reno, 1984; 216 pp., index, notes, illus., appendix, cloth $19.95, paper $12.95).*
A fire fighter's job is never easy, as Fire Chief Frady, the author of this book, well knows. The pioneer firemen on the Comstock Lode fought time and again to save the mining towns of Virginia City and Gold Hill, the various volunteer companies competing with each other to put "first water" on a fire. Frady sheds light on a different aspect of the Comstock as he traces the rise of volunteer fire fighting on the frontier.

Building the Alaska Log Cabin *by Tom Walker (Alaska Northwest, Anchorage, 1984; 178 pp., illus., index, paper $19.95).*
Step by step the author goes expertly through the arduous but rewarding process of building a log home. Drawings and photographs add to the detailed text, which describes the choice of proper timber and tools and even gives advice on furnishings and outbuildings. This guide is for anyone who wishes to take up the challenge of carving a home out of the wild.

Olympic National Park: Where the Mountain Meets the Sea *photo. by Pat O'Hara, text by Tim McNulty (Woodlands Press, Del Mar, 1984; 76 pp., illus., paper $14.95).*
The Olympic Peninsula in Washington boasts the contiguous United States' only rain forest. O'Hara's remarkable photographs show the lush vegetation of the forest, the snowy grandeur of the mountains, and the sunset over the sea in all its brilliant hues. McNulty's knowledgeable text complements the sixty-seven full-color photographs.

Sled Dog Trails *by Mary Shields, illus. by Nancy Van Veenan (Alaska Northwest, Anchorage, 1984; 127 pp., illus., paper $8.95).*
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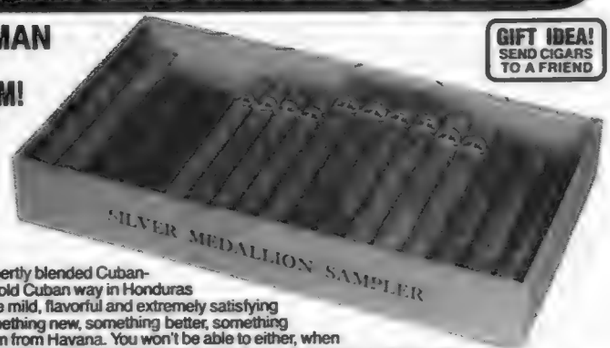

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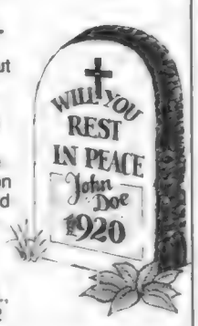

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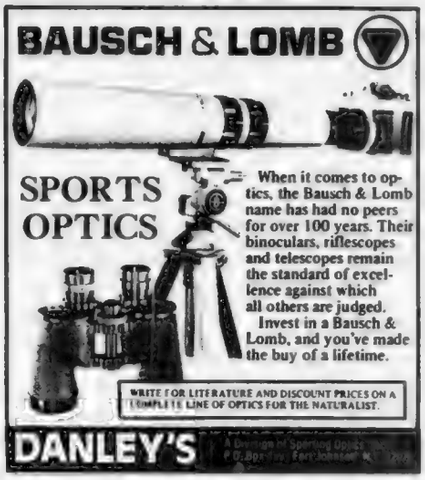
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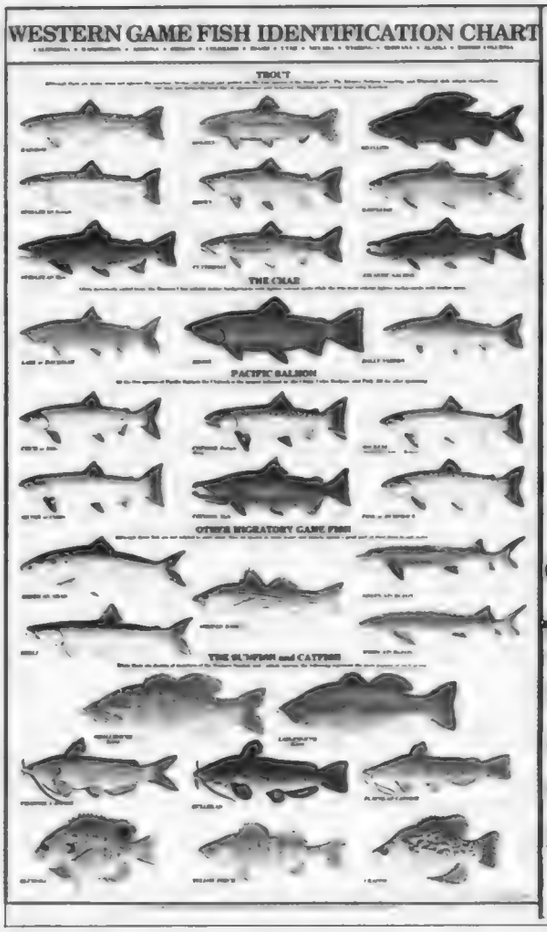

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Plate shown smaller than actual size

Plate size: 8½" diameter

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Hanis Hien

Hien acquired a love of the rural landscape as a natural part of his boyhood spent on his family's farm in New England. His art talent developed quickly and, by the time he finished high school, his watercolors were commanding respectable prices at local art fairs and shows.

He is achieving increasingly wide recognition as more than fifty of his paintings have been published in limited editions, book illustrations, even greeting cards. In all, several hundred of his works have been reproduced and his works are frequently included in art shows, festivals and gallery presentations where his major paintings now command prices of several thousand dollars each and are eagerly sought for private and corporate collections.

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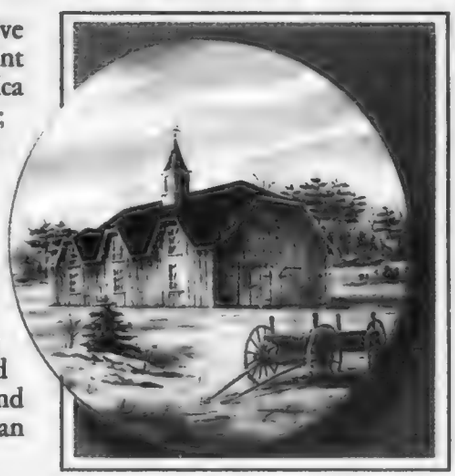

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WEIGHT:
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BORDER:
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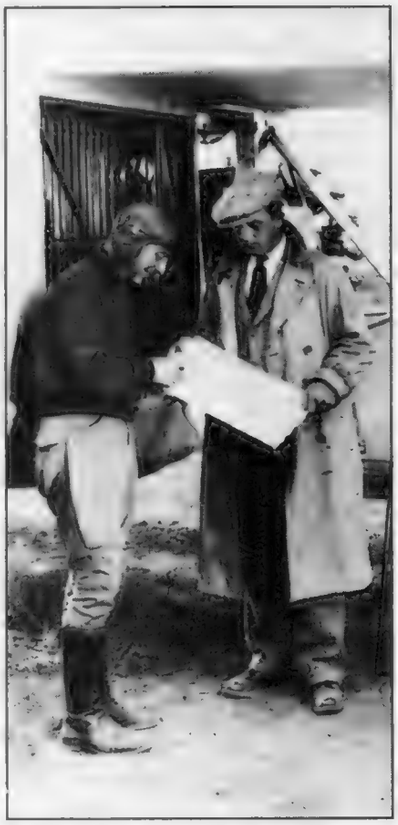

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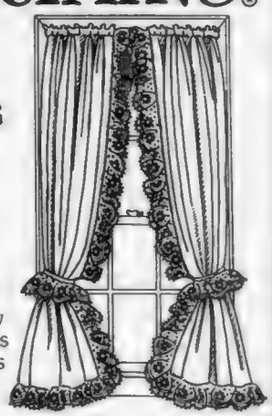

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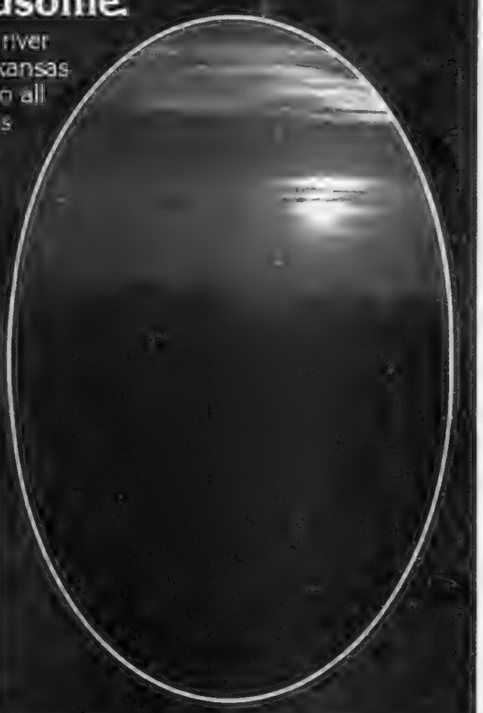

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A Western Success Story

Nothing could keep this loyal mail carrier from his appointed rounds. Known only as Tom Chinaman, he faithfully served the town of Helper, Utah, for over twenty years, carrying mail to and from the afternoon trains. Standing well over six feet, with a queue that reached to his waist, Tom was remarkable in the small Western town both for his appearance and for his friendly nature.

Tom originally worked in Utah laying rails. He was among the many Chinese laborers who built the railroad across the eastern Utah desert in the early 1880s. Unable to speak English when he first arrived, Tom rapidly gained command of the language. He was a diligent worker, earning the respect of his employers who kept him on the payroll as a track walker after the railway was completed.

Tom's new duties included a daily patrol, on foot, of his ten-mile district, checking the rail fastenings and the general condition of the road bed. Flash floods, common in the desert, and high winds covered the tracks with sand, creating hazardous situations.

One windy day Tom discovered that a huge sand drift had covered the main line of the railroad. Realizing that the daily passenger train was due, he started running toward the approaching flyer. When the train came in view Tom began to wave excited signals for the engineer to stop his speeding train short of the dangerous stretch of track. In recognition of his heroic effort the faithful track walker was given a lifetime job as mail carrier.

The town of Helper took a liking to the friendly Oriental. Tom became well known in the community, and was a great favorite with small children. A comical character, he wore a felt hat upside down and carried his pocket coins in the circle of his ears. No one ever learned his real name; so he was known simply as Tom Chinaman.

In his spare time, Tom worked as a swamper in the local saloon. He never married and was careful with his earnings. After many years of carrying the mail, Tom announced that he was going home to his North China province.

A year later, Tom hired a local scribe of his town to write a letter to the lady who ran the railroad cafe. He thanked one and all for their friendship and informed them that he had bought a wife and had been made mayor of his village.

Sam Dougherty, of Lakewood, Colorado, sent us this photograph and the story of Tom Chinaman's success.

AMERICAN WEST offers twenty-five dollars to any reader whose suggestion is accepted for publication in Western Lore. We seek information (with relevant pictures, if possible) about unusual artifacts, unusual and little-known happenings, unusual and little-known people, as well as little-known facts about well-known people—all in Western history. What do you have? Space is limited; so, we have to be selective. We'll take good care of your pictures and return them promptly. Be sure to pack pictures carefully and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return. Send submissions to AMERICAN WEST, Western Lore, 3033 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719.

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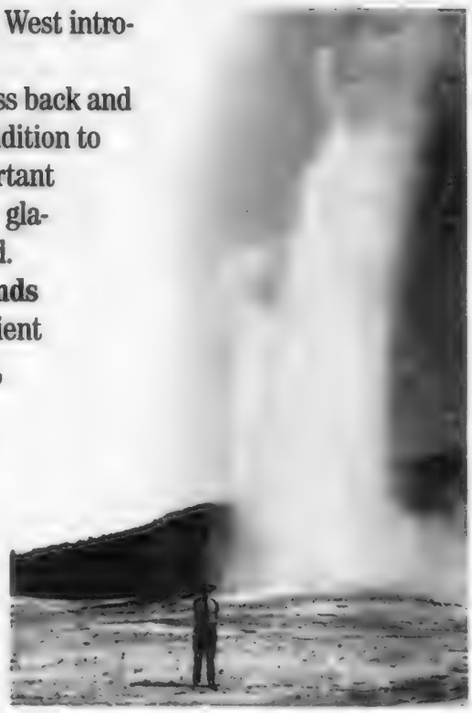

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Western Snapshots Today

Resembling a traveler from pioneer times, Jack Taylor guides his brightly colored mule-drawn wagon along Highway 17 between Antonito, Colorado, and Chama, New Mexico, several miles east of Cumbres Pass. Taylor, along with his wife Marilyn, their dog Elsey El Puppo, and their four mules Ed, Candy, Ruth, and Number Seven, set out to explore the West. They were eager to get a taste of what the early settlers experienced.

The Taylors began their journey from Storden, Minnesota, on July 15, 1984, and ended it four months later in Benson, Arizona, stopping every so often for a week or two to rest the mules. They had quite a few adventures along the way. Treacherous mountain passes, with steep drops alongside the road and the threat of rockfalls from overhead, made for nerve-wracking rides. To allow cars to pass by, Taylor kept the wagon close to the road's edge, sometimes a harrowing six inches from a half-mile fall. Afterwards, the Taylors were able to laugh off these close calls, relieved that their lives were spared.

They found that the easy pace of the mules allowed them to see the countryside thoroughly and did not frighten the wildlife. One elk, annoyed by the intruders, paced up and down a roadside fence, unsure what to make of them. Whatever the animals' reactions, the people they met were friendly.

The colorful wagon, hung with tools and spare harness parts along its side, was built from an old-fashioned horse-drawn hayrack. The Taylors carry grain and sometimes extra hay and water for the mules. Since these animals require a new set of shoes once every three weeks, the Taylors do their own shoeing. On steep roads, Taylor removes the shoes so that the mules may have better traction.

Despite its relatively primitive appearance, the wagon is equipped with the modern conveniences of battery-powered radio and television, as well as a stove for heat. Taylor carries a rifle and shotgun for protection in case wild animals attack the mules. He and his wife keep a sharp eye out for spiders, snakes, and lizards, for, as Taylor puts it, every creepy creature under the sun can get into the wagon.

The Taylors now have only nine states west of the Mississippi to explore in their wagon; they made a nine-month trip through the Midwest to Texas and back to Minnesota three years ago. This spring they will visit Bishop, California, to attend the mule days event there, and then plan to tour Arizona the following summer in what Taylor refers to as his "mule-drawn Winnebago."

Clarence Nitchman, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, took this photo using an 80-200mm zoom lens and Fujicolor 100 film with a Minolta X370, set at f11 with a 1/125-second shutter speed.

AMERICAN WEST offers twenty-five dollars to any photographer, amateur or professional, whose Western Snapshot Today is selected for publication on this page. Pictures portraying today's West —the land and its people—in black-and-white or color, will be accepted for consideration. Please specify the type of camera, lens, film, paper, and techniques as well as light conditions used to obtain your photograph. Prints will be handled with care and returned promptly after use. Be sure to pack the snapshots carefully and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send submissions to AMERICAN WEST, Western Snapshots Today, 3033 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719.

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Western Snapshots Yesterday

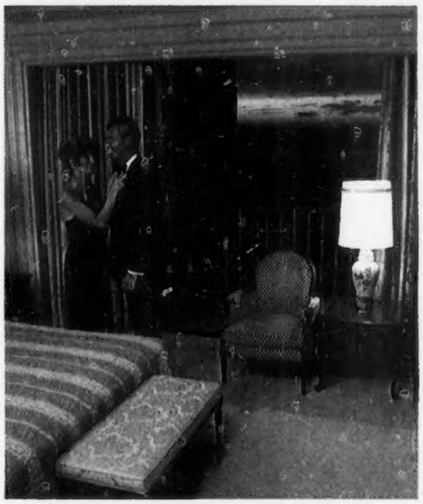
High in the gold country of Idaho, when the West was still a new frontier, doctors and nurses were scarce. In Pine, Idaho, midwife Minnie Melton was often called upon to treat the sick and to help bring babies into the world.

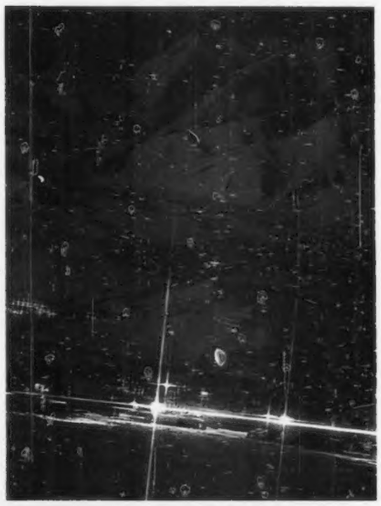
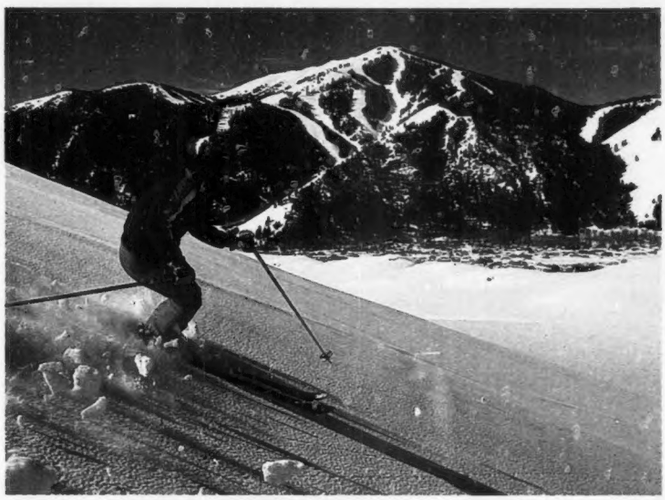
When this picture was taken around 1906, Minnie Melton, in her early sixties, was being carried to the home of a sick person by the "human chair brigade" that often took her on calls. Because Mrs. Melton was only four feet, six inches tall, the snow in Pine and the surrounding country was over her head during much of the long winter, and in her later years this made her travels especially difficult. To get her from place to place, hardy men of the town carried her through the snow in a makeshift sedan chair.

Minnie Melton's homemade medicines—Indian herbs and remedies she had learned from physicians in England and Cuba—provided welcome relief for young and old around Pine. Her recipes for cockelbur syrup, sage tea, and the like worked as a tonic for the ailing. Sometimes, a patient gave the dedicated midwife a little gold dust or canned fruits or just homemade artifacts of various kinds. Whatever she got she shared with those who carried her to her charge and back. But often she received no compensation for her care, only the satisfaction that she and the chair brigade were able to help.

Minnie Melton's great-grandson, Don E. O'Neill of Portland, Oregon, submitted this portrait of the spunky, pioneer midwife of Pine, Idaho.

AMERICAN WEST offers twenty-five dollars to any reader whose Western Snapshot Yesterday is accepted for publication on this page. We seek old photographs that tell stories of bygone times. Especially welcome are pictures depicting some forgotten aspect of Western life, serious or amusing. Space is limited; so, we have to be selective. We'll take good care of your pictures and return them promptly. Be sure to pack the snapshots carefully and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send submissions to AMERICAN WEST, Western Snapshots Yesterday, 3033 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719.



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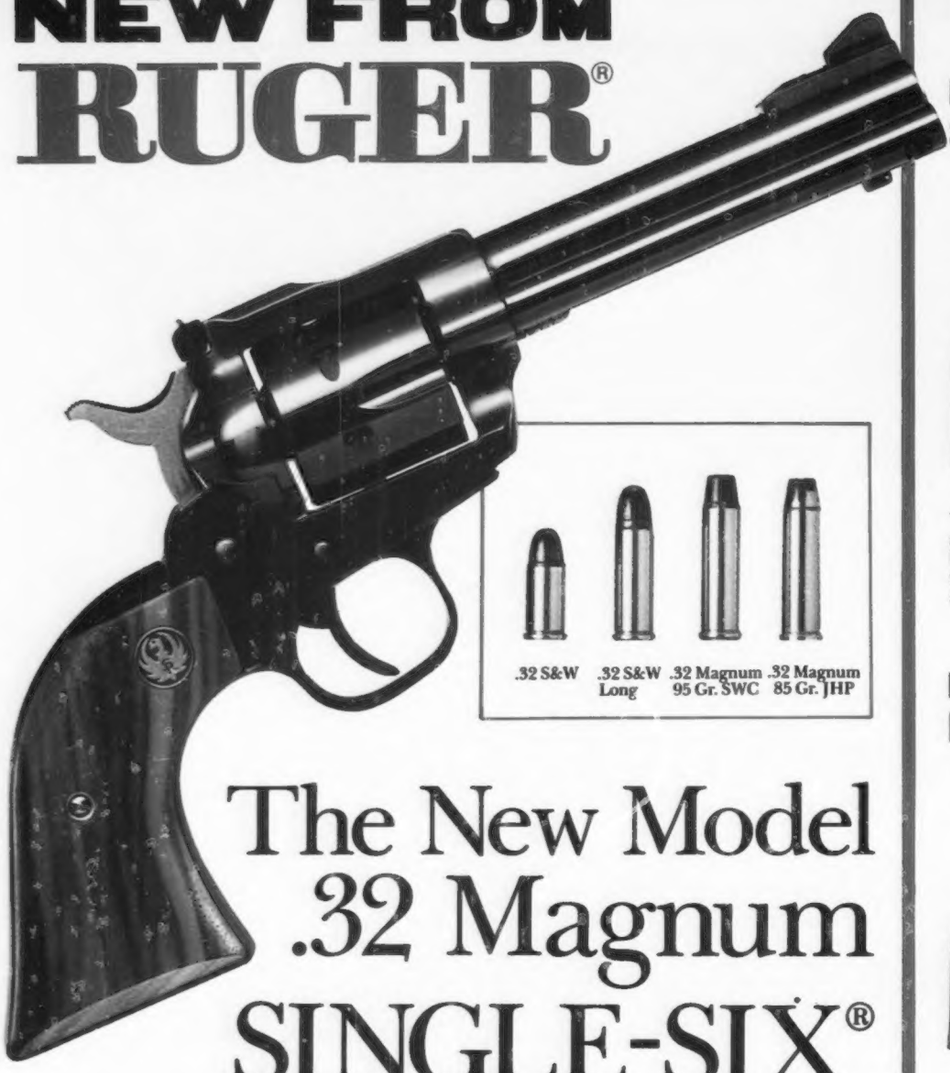

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